

Essential

MARBELLA | MÁLAGA | SPAIN
N° 302 — JANUARY 2025



2025
ANNIVERSARIES

DELIGHT IN
DARJEELING

MCLAREN W1

BENAHAVÍS
GASTRO TOUR

LA ALMAZARA
IN RONDA

TALENTED AARON
TAYLOR-JOHNSON

Happy New Year!

LAS VEGAS
SPHERE MASTERS



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Travel Trends Culture Home Lifestyle Business Property Gourmet



Ref. 2402

5 Beds

5 Baths

1.158 m² Plot

351 m² Built

A jewel in Nueva Andalucia

Villa Aloha is the perfect fusion of Andalusian charm and contemporary luxury, offering breathtaking views of Aloha Golf Course, La Concha mountain, and the Mediterranean Sea. Set in the heart of Nueva Andalucía, this villa boasts elegant interiors with a Gaggenau kitchen, spa-like en-suite bedrooms, and expansive terraces for alfresco dining. The lush gardens feature a heated pool, jacuzzi, and serene chill-out areas surrounded by Mediterranean greenery. Scan the QR code to discover more about this dream villa.



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
— COSTA DEL SOL —

Luxury *lives* in Marbella

This magnificent villa, located in a gated Mediterranean-style community just steps from the beach, offers two interconnected homes that can be purchased together or independently. Set on Marbella's prestigious Golden Mile, it features breathtaking sea views, lush gardens, a communal pool, and a private paddle tennis court. Each home includes spacious living areas, modern kitchens, en-suite bedrooms with terraces, and flexible lower floors for customization. For more information, visit our website by scanning the QR code.



10 Beds
7 Baths
500 m² Plot
494 m² Built



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Sierra Blanca: Newly built impressive villa, just completed, offering the most spectacular interior in terms of architecture and design. Offering an extraordinary living experience with state-of-the-art amenities a high-end home cinema, a fully equipped gym, and a luxurious spa area featuring a hammam, sauna, and heated indoor pool. Staff apartment and lift. **A must be seen!** 7 beds, 7 baths, built area approx. 1,320 m², plot approx. 2,633 m². Price €11,880,000, E&V ID W-02O28K



La Alquería: Contemporary villa with spectacular sea views in an exclusive gated community. 5 beds, 6 baths, built area approx. 734 m², plot approx. 1,278 m². Price: €3,850,000, E&V ID W-02X90S



Los Monteros - Beachside: Exclusive new modern villa just steps from the beach in a prestigious residential area. 6 beds, 8 baths, built area approx. 787 m², plot approx. 1,415 m². Price €8,750,000, E&V ID W-02XXT3



Golden Mile: State-of-the-art penthouse with private pool within a 5-star gated community steps from the beach. 3 beds, 3 baths, interior area approx. 142 m², terrace approx. 270 m². Price €3,975,000, E&V ID W-02XXG9



Cabopino: Luxury apartment with ample terraces boasting spectacular sea views, close to the golf course. 3 beds, 3 baths, interior area approx. 133 m², terrace approx. 76 m². Price: €1,150,000, E&V ID W-02XPV0



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Sierra Blanca: The most exclusive villa on the market today in Sierra Blanca. An extraordinary architectural marvel meticulously crafted boasting expansive marble-adorned living spaces and exquisite finishes. The villa transcends expectations with its exclusive amenities, including a 38-metre infinity pool, a serene dedicated Spa, bodega, bar, games room, open cinema, and guest apartment. 7 beds, 10 baths, built area approx. 1,478 m², plot approx. 2,047 m². Price: €22,000,000, E&V ID: W-02LK09



Los Flamingos Golf: An extraordinary cutting-edge villa affording breathtaking views in an exclusive golf community. 5 beds, 6 baths, built area approx. 890 m², plot approx. 1,420 m². Price €5,700,000, E&V ID W-02XLZN



Monte Mayor: A modern villa in a beautiful Andalusian style situated within an exclusive gated community. 5 beds, 5 baths, built area approx. 580 m², plot approx. 4,075 m². Price: €2,190,000, E&V ID W-02UQL4



Nueva Andalucía: Stunning duplex penthouse in La Cerquilla, boasting breathtaking panoramic sea and mountain views. 3 beds, 4 baths, interior area approx. 145 m², terrace approx. 85 m². Price: €2,500,000, E&V ID: W-02XJKZ



Nueva Andalucía: Spectacular one-level villa showcasing special charm and elegance set in a sought-after location. 3 beds, 3 baths, built area approx. 319 m², plot approx. 1,118 m². Price: €2,975,000, E&V ID W-02XAT6



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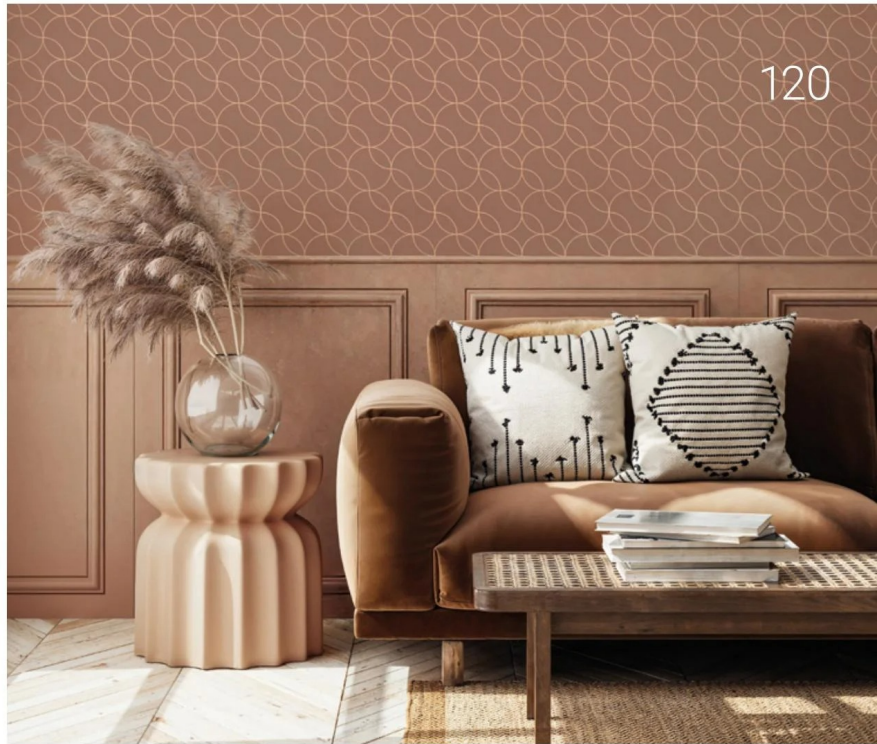
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-SKY VILLA 3G-

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IAIN BLACKWELL
PUBLISHER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Join us in sipping tea on the roof of the world in Darjeeling as we contemplate the new year ahead.

Find out which important anniversaries are coming up through the year and see the Pantone Colour for 2025.

Check out the magnificent new McLaren W1 and be prepared to be mesmerised by Miguel Fontgivell's Oboria Digital Architecture, who designed The Sphere in Las Vegas.

Get to know Aaron Taylor-Johnson whose *Kraven The Hunter* has just hit the big screen and who is currently leading the running as the next Bond.

Meet the Marbella Basketball Team in their 50th Anniversary season and the personnel behind Christie's International Real Estate's new office in Madrid and The Agency in Marbella.

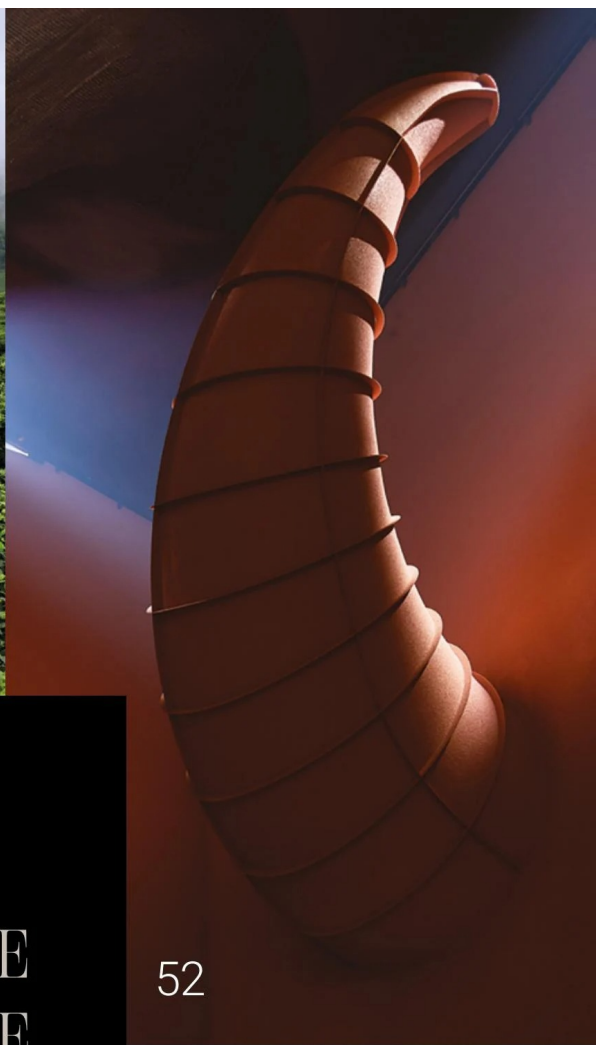
Head inland for a gastronomic tour of idyllic mountain village, Benahavís, and visit the stunning LA Almazara Olive Mill and Museum in Ronda.

Finally, take into account the change in the law on drink driving, coming into force on January 1st.

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“LEARN FROM
YESTERDAY, LIVE
FOR TODAY, HOPE
FOR TOMORROW”
Albert Einstein



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THE SKY

Marbella

On top of La Quinta in Benahavis, on the southern edge of El Madronal, The Sky Marbella was designed according to the highest level of luxury living trends, as an endless dialogue between home, the sky and the sea.

16 luxury villas of approx 869 m2 interior built, 5-6 bedrooms.

50 high end apartments and penthouses: 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms, from 130 to 473 m2 interior built, very large terraces.

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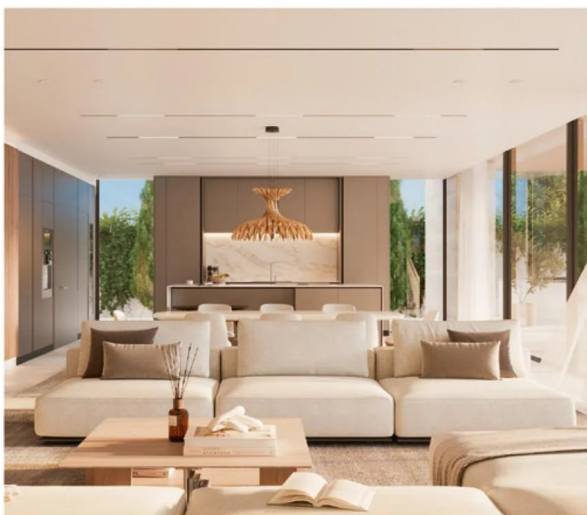
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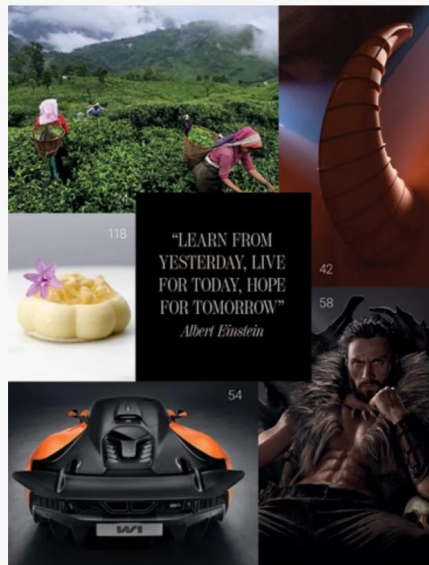


ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE



*The images are used for illustration purposes only. The design may vary in the completed units.





Issue 302 – January 2025

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info@essentialmagazine.com. **PRINTING** Monterreina Comunicacion **DEPÓSITO LEGAL** D.L.MA-512-99

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Take tea on the veranda with stunning mountain views in Darjeeling. Check in to the stylish Casual Ibira Hotel in Granada. Check out the larger than life styling of the new LA Almazara in Ronda, designed by Philippe Starck. Become acquainted with Aaron Taylor-Johnson, whose career is on a stellar trajectory.

spotlight

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DELIGHT IN DARJEELING

WORDS SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY PHOTOGRAPHY SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY + SHUTTERSTOCK

THE GLENBURN TEA ESTATE

Here, at the upscale but classy Glenburn Tea Estate Bungalow, the ethereal view of Kanchenjunga – the 3rd highest peak in the world right from my window was awe inspiring. The stately pine trees, rhododendrons, primulas, magnolias, orchids, and the houses embracing the

Glenburn hill side made for a stunning kaleidoscopic vignette.

The Glenburn Tea Estate to me is a destination in itself: a plantation retreat that dates back to 1860. The estate was first conceptualised by a Scottish Tea company and later on the reigns were transferred to the House of

Morning Glenburn tea in front of Kanchenjunga

Prakashes, popularly referred to as the 'Chaiwala Family' in Indian tea circles. In terms of legacy, Glenburn guests can rest assured of a century of tea manufacturing experience – tea tasting, factory visits, immersive cultural experiences, and sustainable environmental initiatives are all offered to the discerning guests of Glenburn to savour. The Glenburn experience is every bit eco-friendly and the best part is that they grow their own fruits and vegetables, which are 100 per cent organic. ›

Glenburn Hostesses





The Bungalow holiday experience, which is such a rarity in today's hospitality landscape comes as a breath of fresh air and here in this part of the world, the Burra Bungalow and The Water Lily Bungalow together offer an outstanding cosy Himalayan experience that remains unmatched. The essence is however on the colonial feel and the décor too complements the same ambience – old Burma teak for floors, cast iron window frames, and balconies on which to savour intimate moments.

I for one would strongly recommend prospective visitors to embark on the 'Walking Tour'. It is not just refreshing, it is every bit delightful as most of the trail is downhill and anybody in good shape can opt for this one-of-a-kind experience.

The Tea Factory visit will be an eye-opener for many – tea leaves being brought from the gardens, the weighing of the leaves followed by the manufacturing process – withering, rolling, fermenting, drying, and sorting. Guests are also offered unique tea tasting options wherein an array of different blends, aromas, and flavours are available. ›



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The 'Toy Train' of Darjeeling Himalayan Railways



Suspension Bridge to Sikkim

DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAYS

Like many visitors to Darjeeling, I too was driven by my passion for Darjeeling Himalayan Railways. I got interested with DHR when I undertook that unbelievable nostalgic trip on the famed 'Toy Train' way back in the year 2010 that was to change my perception of rail travel in India.

Ever since the UNESCO declaration, conferring the status of a World Heritage Site to the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways, awareness about this railway has increased manifold. Thanks to the pioneering work undertaken by the London based Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society, today the DHR is well positioned in the elite world Railways network.

I have always believed that the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is one of the most unique train journeys anywhere in the world and it fills my heart with joy when I see the 'Toy Train' whirling majestically around the Batasia Loop, which must be among the most photographed railway routes in the world.

This time when I visited the Batasia Loop, I made it a point to further heighten my sense of admiration for this unique railway system. On the advice of my local Nepalese friend from DHR, Sanjay, I took a vantage position in a vacant piece of land at a level with Loop 3 and what I saw from there was incredible to say the least. Here the train hangs out for dear life on a spur, yes, a spur! And nothing else. To be able to see the train suspended in space with its squealing wheels and propelled by an engine that never stopped whistling was as

awe-inspiring as it was scary.

I was most impressed by the endeavours undertaken by the DHR Club for promoting awareness about this unique railway system by way of launching custom designed notebooks and greeting cards that were crafted to perfection by two promising school children of Darjeeling. What must come as a surprise package for the young ones though is the launch of a leaflet 'My Diary of a Train Journey', an exclusive four-page leaflet with questions pertaining to the DHR which the kids are expected to answer (fill up) on board the toy train. The focus of the DHR Club is clearly on the children who have always had a sentimental attachment with the Toy Train. >





Lush field of tea pickers

DARJEELING ATTRACTIONS

Darjeeling has its share of tourist landmarks like the Natural History Museum, The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, the Shrubbery Park, Observatory Hill, Darjeeling-Rangeet Valley Passenger Ropeway, Lloyd's Botanical Garden, Tiger Hill, to name just a few.

The Natural History Museum is in close proximity to the town's principal promenade and has a good collection of rare Himalayan fauna while the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is a one-

of-its-kind zoo that has the endangered Tibetan Wolf as well as the Snow Leopard and Siberian Tiger as its residents. I had never ever visited a zoo at such a high altitude. The PNHZ is located at a height which

is all of 2133.5 meters above sea level, and the colossal Kanchenjunga provides the picture perfect backdrop to this remarkable zoo. The Red Panda is the cynosure of all eyes at this zoo.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park





SMALL
LUXURY
HOTELS
OF THE WORLD

Mountaineering as an activity has become very popular and Darjeeling is the native place of the great Indian mountaineer Tenzing Norgay who along with Edmund Hillary was the first to conquer Mt. Everest. In his memory, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute has been providing yeoman's service in the domain of Himalayan mountaineering. The institute works in close collaboration with the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research.

The lure of the Darjeeling's Rangeet Valley Ropeway is irresistible. This ropeway connects Darjeeling with Bijanbari. A ride on this mono-cabled ropeway can be exhilarating. I was initially frightened by the height as most first time riders would be, since the ride commences

from a height of 7000 feet from North Point and descends to a low of 800 feet which is quite a descent. I was told by the operator that this Ropeway was the largest passenger ropeway not only in India but Asia as a whole.

On my earlier visits to Darjeeling, I was unable to visit the much-hyped Tiger Hill. So I made it a point to get to this romantic spot at the break of dawn. I had left instructions with one of the bellboys to give me a wake-up call at 4 A.M. for my visit to Tiger Hill the next morning. And believe me, not only did he come knocking at my door at 4 A.M. sharp, but had also made arrangements for my cab. Since the chauffeur failed to turn up on time, the bellboy himself volunteered to drive the cab all the way to Tiger Hill and back. >

Sign at Darjeeling Railway Station



Buddhist Prayer Wheels





The view of Kanchenjunga
mountain range from Darjeeling



This is what you call quality service, which is a characteristic feature of the world famous Glenburn Tea Estate.

We travelled through the narrow alleyways of Darjeeling and passed by Ghoom to reach the pinnacle of the hill. We were at an elevation of 8,507 feet and hordes of tourists were flocking in even though the sun was yet to rise. Within an hour or so, the ethereal sight of the red molten ball rising on the far horizon amid the snow-capped Himalayan peaks attracted our attention. For first time visitors like me, the remarkable scene of the sun rising early in the morning as viewed from Tiger Hill was a poignant memory. Describing the beauty of the sunrise from Tiger Hill, one renowned Travel Writer was quoted

as saying: "Your visit to India is incomplete even if you have visited the Taj Mahal by moonlight a hundred times but haven't witnessed the spectacular sunrise at Tiger Hill".

CROSS CULTURES

At Darjeeling you are actually in Gorkha territory. The Gorkhas are a sturdy lot – those valiant soldiers who have carved a niche for themselves in the annals of the Indian Army purely by dint of their military prowess. The Gorkhas are the inhabitants of the Darjeeling hills and they have Mongoloid features and are conspicuous by their 'Khukri' knives that are strapped to their waist. They are known to be very hospitable though.

You are also likely to come across a sizeable number of Bhutias of

Tibetan origin. They have settled here in the Darjeeling hills so as to evade the persecution of Tibetans in Tibet by China's Red Army.

Teas ready for tasting



Glenburn Boutique Collection



SHOPPING FOR MOMENTOS

As far as shopping in Darjeeling is concerned, there are numerous shops dotting the Darjeeling landscape. Most popular curio shops can be found around Chowrasta, Chowk Bazar, Laden La Road, Nehru Road, the Motor Stand, and the Mahakal Market. Visitors are fascinated by Tibetan Thangkas in particular. Carpets and wooden engravings too are in great demand.

In terms of quality, the Manusha Emporium at Nehru Road is much sought after by visitors for its array of silk and handicraft products. For intricately designed Tibetan carpets, the best place in town is the Hayden Hall on Laden La Road.

While in Darjeeling, don't forget to grab your packet of 100% authentic Darjeeling Tea. The Nathumull's in Laden La Road is trusted by the tourist fraternity. >

TRAVELLER'S FACT FILE

GETTING THERE:

Air: The nearest airport is Bagdogra and there are regular flights from Kolkata and Delhi to Bagdogra.

From Bagdogra one can reach Darjeeling by road and the distance of 93 kms can be covered in 2.5 hours. Hired taxis and cabs are easily available at Bagdogra Airport.

Rail: The nearest railway station is New Jalpaiguri. Trains like the Darjeeling Mail, Kanchenjunga Express, Rajdhani Express, Dadar-Guwahati Express, and Guwahati - Bangalore Express, etc. halt at New Jalpaiguri railway station.

Another innovative way of reaching Darjeeling is by embarking on a journey by the world famous 'Toy Train' that departs from New

Jalpaiguri Railway Station. The journey by 'Toy Train' is covered in 7.5 hours.

Accommodation: Hotels to suit every budget are available in Darjeeling town. Up-market hotels like Windamere, Sterling Resorts, New Elgin Dekeling, Sinclairs, Darjeeling Gymkhana, etc... offer the very best of mountain hospitality. The rooms are spacious and offer breathtaking views of the lofty Himalayan peaks including the Kanchenjunga. The food too is high on quality and the choicest of cuisines ranging from Continental to Chinese and Indian (Tandori) are available. Most of the up-market hotels also have exclusive fireplaces. Running hot and cold water is available along with 24 hours room service. The pubs are well stocked and are ideal to unwind in after a day of sightseeing. 

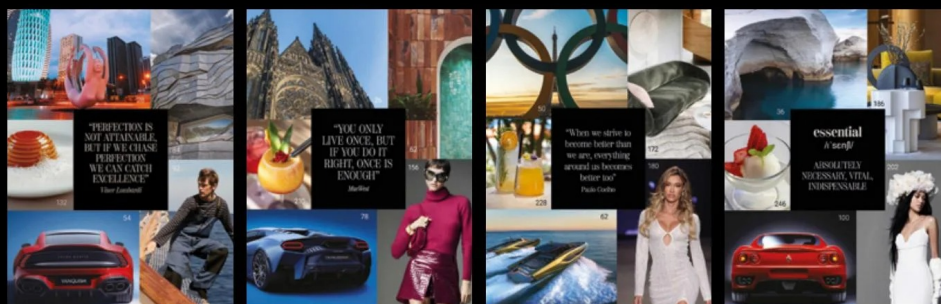
Tea plantations in Darjeeling



26th ANNIVERSARY



INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED, AWARD-WINNING
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During the past 25 years, **essential** magazine has emerged as the foremost lifestyle publication in Southern Spain, distinguished by its vibrant design and captivating editorial content. With a blend of relevant articles, dynamic features, and insightful social commentary, it stands as the ultimate insider's guide to life and style in Marbella and its surrounds. **essential** also stays attuned to global trends and is followed by a significant digital audience.

CASUAL ILBIRA GRANADA



A GROUNDBREAKING HOTEL IN THE HEART OF GRANADA

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **CASUAL ILBIRA GRANADA**

When I was a teen in Australia, I had a friend who told me that if I visited Spain, the one place I simply could not forego was Granada. Home to the Moorish palace of La Alhambra, it is the stuff that dreams are made of, with its labyrinth of winding streets, Arabian tea houses, and nearby natural wonders (including the skiing haven, Sierra Nevada). Granada is a small but stunning city that is worth enjoying leisurely. Day visits to sites like the Alpujarra, with its vertiginous mountains and winding roads, or Guadix, with its famous cave houses, are only possible if you opt for a three- or four-day stay. If you decide to do so, one hotel you can call home during your visit is the new Casual Ilbira Granada.

DISRUPTIVE AESTHETICS

The Casual Ilbira, with just 41 rooms, boasts a lively, youthful thematic design that reinterprets iconic landmarks and figures from Granada's history. It's the first hotel in Granada from Casual Hoteles, a Valencia-based group with locations in Cádiz, Sevilla, and Málaga. Situated just five minutes by foot from the iconic Plaza Nueva and

10 minutes from Granada's stunning cathedral, it is an ideal resting spot from which to explore the city.

A TALENTED DESIGNER FOR A HOTEL THAT CELEBRATES HISTORY AND CULTURE

The hotel's design is inspired by the historical legends who shaped Granada's history. Its designer, Raquel Sanjuán,

put her creative talents on full throttle for the interiors, humorously reimagining the city's key spaces, figures, and events. Sanjuán's firm specialises in the construction and renovation of hotels and her team is behind some of Spain's most visually stunning hotels, including the Hotel Casual Pop Art Benidorm – famed for its bold, vibrant, youthful pop art interiors. ›

Artistry abounds in every corner, from the reception area to the whimsical headboards, linen, and artwork in the rooms. The effect is energetic, jovial, and appealing, very much opposed to the sometimes staid, neutral colour schemes found in most hotels.

The Hotel's rooms evoke famous corners of Granada, such as the Street of Teahouses, the Generalife Gardens, the Paseo de los Tristes, the Sacromonte Caves, and the Sierra Nevada. It's not all about tradition, however, as they also showcase a blend of pop art and kitsch influences. Several of the rooms can accommodate three to four guests, making it an ideal choice for families and groups of friends. ›





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All rooms pamper guests with amenities by Rituals, a brand that is well-known for its dedication to sustainable and personal well-being in the luxury beauty industry. If you've stepped into a Rituals store, then you know that the company stands out for its high-quality ingredients, delicious fragrances, and connection to nature and Eastern traditions.

If you enjoy travelling with pets, know that your experience at the Casual Ilbira will be fuss-free, as you can bring up to two pets (up to 25kg each in weight) free of charge when you book

a room through the official website.

You'll probably be out and about tucking into Granada's famous tapas bars, but before you set off on your day of discovery, enjoy a hearty buffet at the breakfast area. The Hotel also has a stylish rooftop with views of the city and the Sierra Nevada and a cosy co-working space, where you can catch up on work e-mails or finish your work tasks before seeing the best Granada has to offer.

ABOUT CASUAL HOTELES

Founded in 2013 by Juan

Carlos Sanjuán, Valencia-based Casual Hoteles is a leading provider of themed urban accommodations in Spain. Its hotels feature unique décor inspired by the destinations they're located in, combining high standards, central locations, and affordable prices.

Casual Hoteles has received numerous accolades, including:

- » Best Hotel Concept Award (Hostelco, 2018)
- » First Prize for Tourism Sustainability (HOSBEC, 2023)
- » Best CSR Strategy (Roca Hospitality Awards, 2024)



The group emphasises social and environmental responsibility through its Ethical Code and partnerships with NGOs like Save the Children and UNICEF.

Currently, Casual Hoteles operates 25 hotels with 881 rooms across 13 cities in Spain, Portugal, and Italy. By 2025, two new locations are set to open in Ibiza (42 rooms) and Naples (34 rooms).

| WWW.CASUALHOTELES.COM



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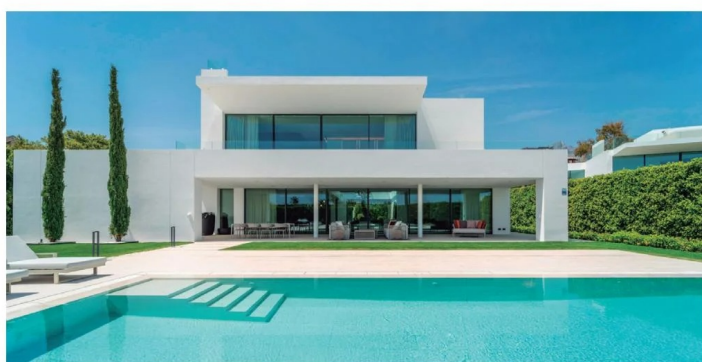


Villa Cenote

NUEVA ANDALUCIA, MARBELLA · REF TA0079

BEDS	6	BUILT	820 M ²
BATH	8	TERRACE	258 M ²
PLOT	1,798 M ²	PRICE	8,990,000 €

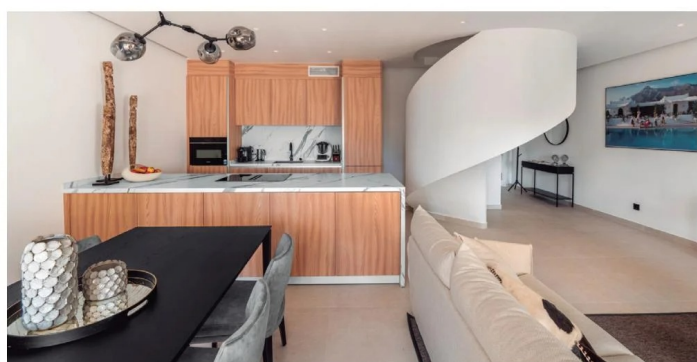
Casa Cenote is much more than a villa—it is a tropical haven, exuding a unique blend of luxury and serenity in the sought-after Nueva Andalucía. Nestled in a peaceful neighborhood, this expansive villa combines the ambiance of a high-end beach resort with the comforts of a private home. As you step inside, you're greeted by an inviting and open space, where every corner promises relaxation and entertainment.



Villa Zero

MARBELLA GOLDEN MILE · REF TA0268

BEDS	5	INTERIOR	931 M ²
BATH	5	TERRACE	387 M ²
PLOT	1,602 M ²	PRICE	13,995,000 €



Casa Aaron

ALOHA GARDENS, MARBELLA · REF TA0222

BEDS	4	INTERIOR	170 M ²
BATH	3	TERRACE	71 M ²
BUILT	241 M ²	PRICE	1,250,000 €





— The next Generation of Real Estate has *arrived* —

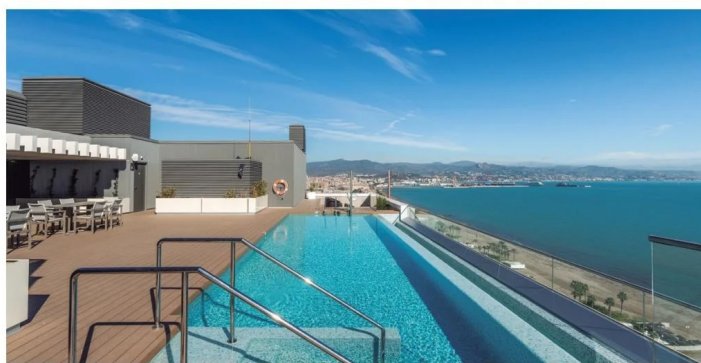


Casa Las Palmeras

PARAISO BARRONAL, ESTEPONA EAST · REF TA8065

BEDS	5	BUILT	1,257 M ²
BATH	6	TERRACE	440 M ²
PLOT	2,563 M ²	PRICE	8,800,000 €

Casa Las Palmeras is a tropical sanctuary blending luxury and tranquility in the coveted Nueva Andalucía. Nestled on an expansive 2,563 m² plot in a peaceful neighborhood, this remarkable property spans three floors, featuring an impressive basement with 3-meter-high ceilings, perfect for entertainment and leisure. With five spacious bedrooms, this villa harmonizes resort-style elegance with the comforts of a private home.



Malaga Towers

MALAGA · REF TA0114

BEDS	4	INTERIOR	211 M ²
BATH	3	TERRACE	60 M ²
BUILT	271 M ²	PRICE	1,950,000 €



Villa La Concha

NUEVA ANDALUCIA, MARBELLA · REF TA0004

BEDS	5	BUILT	482 M ²
BATH	6	TERRACE	223 M ²
PLOT	802 M ²	PRICE	2,575,000 €



EXCITING ANNIVERSARIES

TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2025

WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY **SHUTTERSTOCK** AND **WIKIPEDIA**



As we embrace a brand-new year and its potential to change our lives for the better, it is fitting to turn our eye to major historical events of the past. Delving into historical archives reveals that 2025 is a year of many important anniversaries. We've gathered some of the most meaningful events to share with you and hope that you join us in celebrating the significance of these groundbreaking events.



400TH ANNIVERSARY

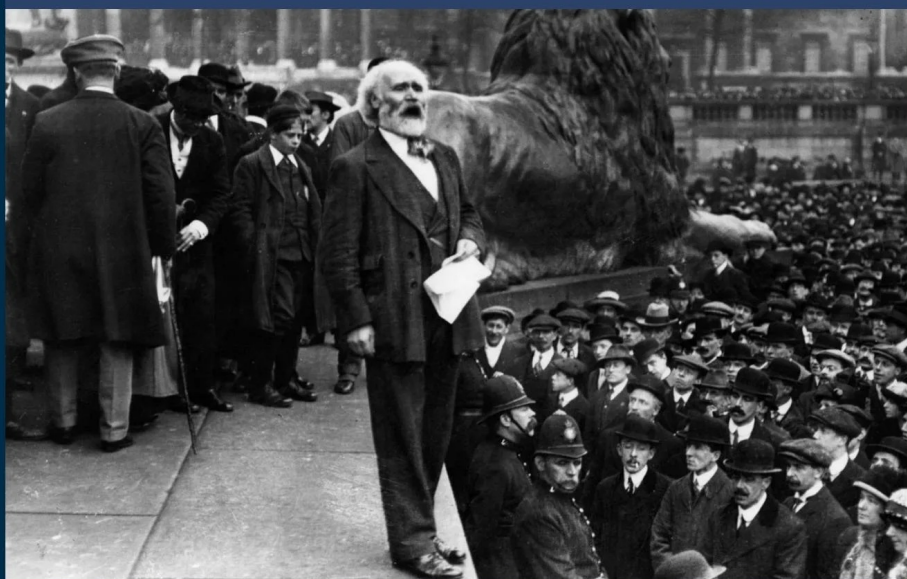
» MARCH, 1625: CHARLES I BECOMES KING OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & IRELAND

Charles I succeeded his father James I (James VI of Scotland) to become King of England, Scotland, and Ireland on March 27, 1625. His reign was an exciting moment in English history, as it was marked by controversial religious policies and conflicts with Parliament. Charles I thought little of the separation of church and state; he was convinced of the divine right of kings and clashed repeatedly with Parliament, dissolving the latter numerous times and ruling without it from 1629 to 1640. Meanwhile, his marriage to Henrietta Maria, a Catholic French princess, coupled with his attempts to impose the Anglican Book of Common Prayer on the Scottish Church (which was largely Presbyterian) caused suspicion and bitterness. Tensions came to the fore during the English Civil War (1642–1651), which pitted Charles and his supporters against Parliamentarians. The result was unfavourable for Charles. He was found guilty of treason and executed on January 30, 1649, marking the first and only time an English monarch was legally executed.

250TH ANNIVERSARY

» DECEMBER, 1775: BIRTH OF JANE AUSTEN

What's not to love about one of the 19th century's most celebrated novelists, Jane Austen? The talented author of novels like *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Emma*, highlighted the flaws of a society in which women were taught to aspire to little more than marrying a wealthy bachelor. Through her celebrated irony and perfectly crafted narratives, Austen brought some of our favourite all-time heroes and heroines to life, including Elizabeth Bennett (who married for love rather than convenience), Mr. Darcy (whose integrity and deep love for Elizabeth Bennett has made him the ultimate male protagonist), Elinor Dashwood (whose 'sense' and self-control eventually take a backseat to love), and Emma Woodhouse (the hilarious matchmaker who often gets herself into trouble by misunderstanding others' affections and emotions).



125TH ANNIVERSARY

» FEBRUARY, 1900: BRITISH LABOUR PARTY IS FOUNDED

The British Labour Party was born at the turn of the century due to working-class citizens' frustration at not being able to field parliamentary candidates through the Liberal Party (which was the primary social reform party in Britain at the time). It comprised a union of the Trades Union Congress (the national federation of British trade unions) and the Independent Labour Party (founded in 1893). The party was relatively quiet at first, but made great strides in the post-WWI era, reconstituting itself as a formally socialist party with a democratic constitution and national structure in 1918. Fabian Society leaders Sidney and Beatrice Webb drafted a new programme, entitled *Labour and the New Social Order*. It committed the Party to the pursuit of full employment with a minimum wage, maximum work week, progressive education, the expansion of educational and social services, and more. By 1922, the Labour Party had officially become the official opposition to the Conservative Party.

125TH ANNIVERSARY

» JULY, 1900: QUEEN VICTORIA GIVES ROYAL ASSENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Queen Victoria marked a pivotal moment in Australian history when she signed the Royal Commission of Assent to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. The latter formally established the legal framework for the Commonwealth of Australia. It united the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania into the Commonwealth of Australia, which was joined a little later by Western Australia. The Commonwealth of Australia was formally established on New Year's Day, 1901.



100TH ANNIVERSARY

» OCTOBER, 1925: JOHN LOGIE BAIRD UNDERTAKES FIRST TEST OF A WORKING TELEVISION

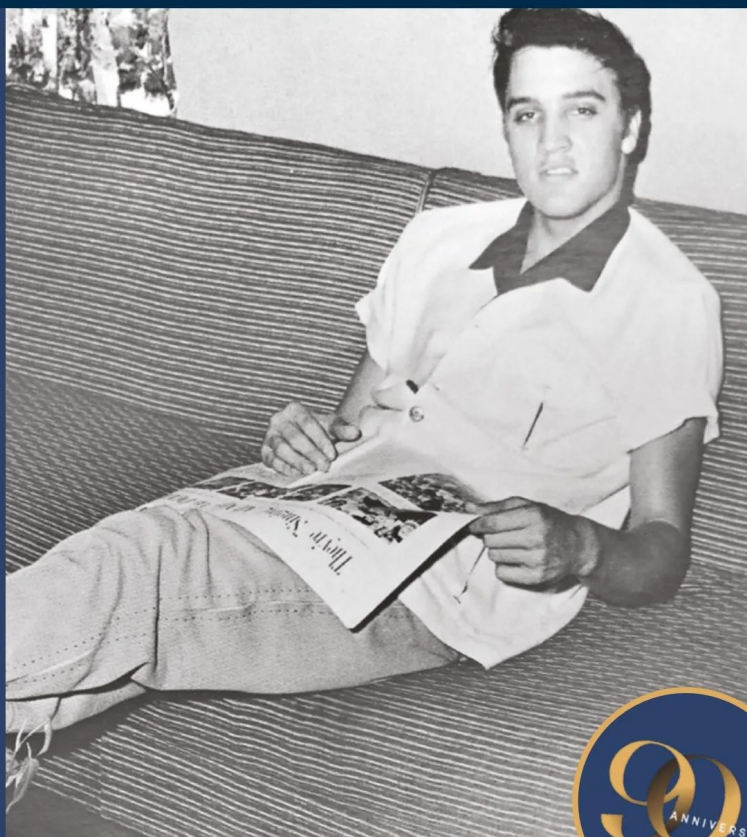
Scottish engineer and investor, John Logie Baird, performed the first test of a working television system on October 2, 1925. From his London lab, he successfully transmitted the first television picture with a greyscale image – the head of a ventriloquist's dummy named 'Stooky Bill'. It was broadcast as a 30-line vertically scanned image that moved at five pictures per second. He then chose the first-ever human who would be televised in full tonal range: an office worker, 20-year-old William Edward Taynton. In 1928, Logie Baird made the first transatlantic television transmission, from London to Hartsdale, New York, and broadcasted the first television programme for the BBC. ›



90TH ANNIVERSARY

» JANUARY, 1935: THE BIRTH OF ELVIS PRESLEY

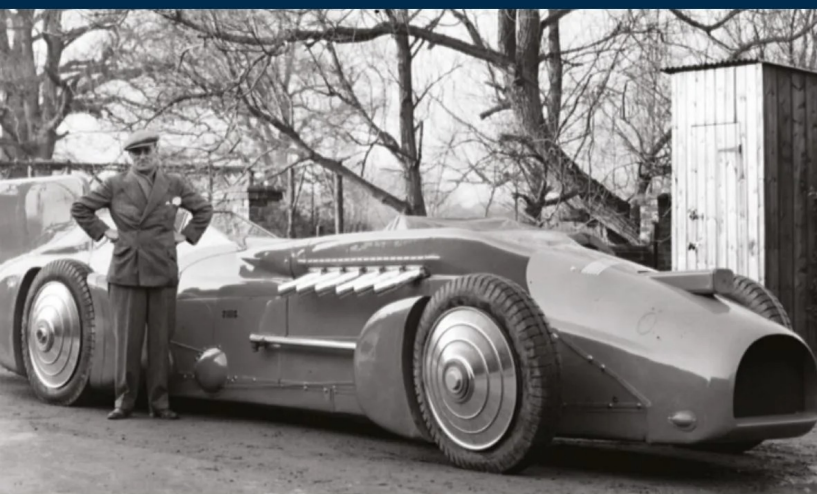
Elvis Presley, The King, was born on January 8, 1935 in a tiny home in Tupelo, Mississippi. His twin brother, Jessie Garon, was stillborn – a fact that some biographers say impacted Elvis all his life, as the icon spoke about feeling incomplete because of his brother's absence. Larry Geller, Elvis' friend, said that Elvis spoke frequently about Jessie. He said that when he was around five or six, he used to hear a voice inside his head that confused him. "He thought it was his brother Jessie communicating with him and telling him what to do," said Larry. If you wish to feel inspired by Elvis' birth we recommend the song *Tupelo* by Nick Cave. The song reimagines the circumstances of Elvis' birth, setting it against the backdrop of a violent storm and imbuing it with chaotic Biblical imagery.



90TH ANNIVERSARY

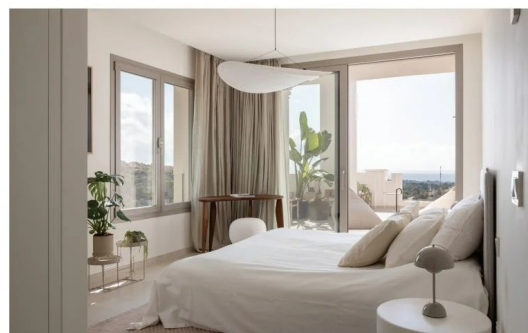
» SEPTEMBER, 1935: SIR MALCOLM CAMPBELL BECOMES THE FIRST PERSON TO EXCEED 300MPH

Sir Malcolm Campbell was the first person to drive an automobile over 300 miles per hour (482.803 km/h). He had been working on breaking records of speed for over a decade, consistently cutting back on his times throughout the 1920s and 1930s. He drove his iconic Blue Bird car on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, achieving a remarkable speed of 301.337 mph (484.955 km/h). Not content with his record on land, he turned his attention to water sports, setting multiple records between 1937 and 1939 on a specially designed Blue Bird K4 hydroplane. His record of 141.74 mph remained unbroken when he passed away in 1948.



PROPERTY OF THE MONTH

The gem of Nueva Andalucía



Strand Properties®

247 M² | 3 BEDS | 4 BATHS | REF: SPCRM2110 | PRICE: 2,890,000€



This unique Duplex Penthouse in a new building enjoys excellent privacy and breathtaking panoramic views, from La Concha to Gibraltar. With an exceptional layout and high-quality finishes, the apartment features appliances from Gaggenau and bathrooms by Villeroy & Boch. The Master bedroom, on the top floor, boasts a wonderful solarium and a Drop Jacuzzi. Situated within the gated community of 9 Lions Residences, this modern apartment offers a well-secured urbanization with heated pools, gym, saunas, 24/7 security, and concierge services. It overlooks three of the best golf courses, all just a few minutes' drive away.

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80TH ANNIVERSARY

» JANUARY, 1945: AUSCHWITZ IS LIBERATED

On January 27, 1945, the Soviet army liberated the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. On that day, the Soviet soldiers found between 7,000 and 9,000 prisoners at the camp, many of whom were severely ill and starving. The Nazis had attempted to destroy evidence of their crimes by blowing up and partially dismantling gas chambers, but thousands of unburied bodies remained strewn across the camp. The liberation of Auschwitz revealed the barbarous extent of the Nazi crimes. Some 1.1 million people were assassinated in the camp, which became a powerful symbol of the end of the Nazi regime.

80TH ANNIVERSARY

» FEBRUARY, 1945: THE BIRTH OF BOB MARLEY

The greatest reggae musician of all time, Bob Marley, was born

on February 6, 1945, in Nine Mile – a small village in Jamaica. His mother, Cedella Booker, was 18 at the time and his father, Norval Sinclair Marley, was a British naval captain who was almost 60 years old when Bob was born. Bob's mother and father didn't get along, and separated soon after he was born. The singer grew up with his mother in the countryside and his environment shaped his music as much as the poverty that surrounded him in the streets of West Kingston – the place he called home from the age of 12 onwards. Bob's mixed heritage caused him to be a victim of bullying in his youth, which impacted his view of race and identity. He famously said, "I'm not on the White man's side, or the Black man's side. I'm on God's side."

80TH ANNIVERSARY

» MAY, 1945: V-E DAY

V-E Day is one of the most memorable days in modern history, for it was the day that the Allies celebrated the unequivocal surrender of Nazi Germany. The big day was preceded by several events that saw Churchill and his allies cry victory. These included the suicide of Hitler in Berlin in April of the same year and the official Surrender Agreement signed by Germany in May. Winston Churchill famously delivered an emotionally charged speech from the balcony of the Ministry of Health building in London. He addressed the multitudes below and gave his famous 'V for Victory' sign, inspiring them and future generations with the following words: "Do not despair, do not yield to violence and tyranny, march straightforward and die if need be – unconquered."



80TH ANNIVERSARY

» AUGUST, 1945: V-J DAY

V-J Day is the colloquial term for Victory Over Japan – a phenomenon that marked the end of WWII and resulted in Japan's surrender to the Allies. In August, 1945, the U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb, 'Little Boy', over Hiroshima and the second, 'Fat Man', over Nagasaki. Some five days after the second bombing, Japan agreed to surrender unconditionally, and U.S. President, Harry S. Truman, declared a two-day holiday. The Japanese defeat marked the end of six years of strife, and celebrations worldwide were said to be even more exuberant than those observed on V-E Day.

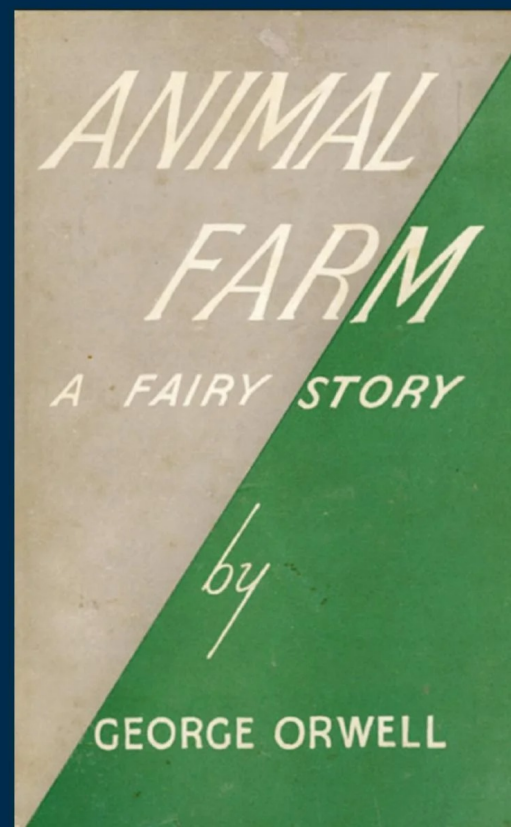
80TH ANNIVERSARY

» AUGUST, 1945: THE FIRST EDITION OF *ANIMAL FARM* IS PUBLISHED

George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, an allegory of the conflicts between Lenin, Trotsky, and Stalin and a criticism of corrupt dictatorship, will be 80 years old in August, 2025. Owing to its perceived anti-Soviet sentiment and its timing (the first draft was penned in 1944, in the thick of WWII), it was rejected by four publishers. One of

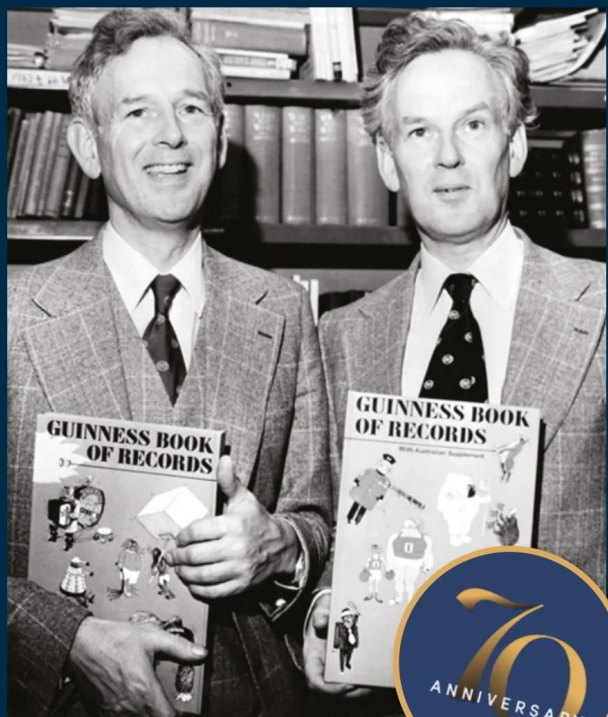
them, Jonathan Cape, initially accepted the work but quickly declined it after a contact at the Ministry of Information warned him against it. T.S. Eliot, who read the book prior to its publication at Faber and Gwyer (later Faber and Faber), rejected the publication. Eliot remarked that although the writing was good, it was unconvincing that the pigs should be chosen as the best leaders for the farm. "What was needed," he said, "was not more communism but more public-spirited pigs." Orwell wrote a preface for the book that was never published. It sums up the pressure faced by any literature deemed anti-Soviet: "The sinister fact about literary censorship in England is that it is largely voluntary. Things are kept right out of the British press, not because the Government intervenes, but because of a general tacit agreement that 'it wouldn't do' to mention that particular fact."

For instance, it made no reference to sexual harassment. As a result,



test cases had to be brought in the 1980s to establish that harassment was indeed a legally recognised form of 'discrimination'.





70TH ANNIVERSARY

» AUGUST, 1955: THE FIRST EDITION OF THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS IS PUBLISHED

The Guinness Book of World Records is still one of the most exciting, pertinent, and oft-discussed modern books, with everyone from athletes to artists and everyday people seeking to make it into its pages. The idea for the book arose in the early 1950s, when Sir Hugh Beaver, Managing Director of the Guinness Brewery, attended a shooting party in County Wexford. There, he and his hosts argued about the fastest game bird in Europe and were unable to find an answer in any reference book. Sir Hugh had the idea for a Guinness promotion based on the idea of settling pub arguments. He invited renowned fact-finding researchers, twins Norris and Ross McWhirter, to write a book of fun facts and figures. They took 13 and a half 90-hour weeks to draft a book that would become one of the world's all-time bestsellers.

60TH ANNIVERSARY

» NOVEMBER, 1965: SUSPENSION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE UK

The Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act 1965, which received royal assent on 8 November 1965, suspended capital punishment in the case of persons convicted of murder in Great Britain until 1970. Right before this date, on December 16, 1969, MPs voted to make it permanent, with Peers voting identically the same day. The Act did not extend to Northern Ireland, which nevertheless abolished capital punishment in 1973. As of 2023, some 144 countries have abolished the death penalty. However, Amnesty International reported that at least 22 countries carried out executions in 2023, with a total of 1,153 executions recorded across 16 countries, marking the highest figure recorded since 2015.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

» DECEMBER, 1975: THE SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT IS PASSED AND THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION CREATED

In December 1975, the Sex Discrimination Act was passed in the UK, with a view to paving the way for greater equality. The law led to the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), which was an independent promotion, investigation, and enforcement body. The legislation was radical in intention and was considered a landmark achievement because it addressed the limitations of the Equal Pay Act (which simply made unequal pay for 'like work' unlawful). The new legislation went much further, making it illegal to discriminate on the grounds of sex when offering employment, training or promoting staff, or dismissing them. It also created a system of enforcement and review of the pertinent law. The Act was by no means perfect.



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THE WORLD'S FIRST SIGNATURE OLIVE MILL LA ALMAZARA RONDA

The popular town of Ronda, famous for its spectacular gorge, is now the location of the world's first signature olive oil mill and museum, the creation of celebrated international designer, Philippe Starck.

WORDS **LOUISE COOK-EDWARDS** PHOTOGRAPHY **GARY EDWARDS** AND COURTESY OF **LA ALMAZARA**





Nestled within twenty-six hectares of olive groves, and overlooking breathtaking vistas of the verdant valley and Serranía de Ronda, LA Almazara has been conceived as a comprehensive visitor attraction, paying homage to nature, art, and andalusian traditions and to the fascinating process of producing organic olive oil, Spain's very own 'liquid gold'.

Offering a feast for the senses, the striking new mill and museum are the fruit of the imagination of world-renowned designer, Philippe Starck, whose creative genius is evident in every aspect of this inspirational

new visitor enticement.

Just two kilometres outside Ronda, less than a ten-minute drive from the famous gorge, in the wilds of the countryside, the striking new olive mill rises up from the land, a vast terracotta coloured cube, dubbed the 'toro', or bull, complete with horns, a Picasso-esque eye, and a tail.

The project was conceived back in 2005, when Starck was commissioned to create packaging for the LA Organic brand of olive oil. Gaining traction over time, with six prolific investors including Starck himself, LA Almazara began to take shape. The first stone of the twenty-two million euro investment was laid in 2021.

Opened by dignitaries in

October 2024, LA Almazara represents an innovative vision fusing tradition and modernity, consolidating Ronda as a destination for culture, gastronomic tourism, and now, thanks to Starck, design. The renowned French architect has a special affinity for Spain and the collaboration with the olive oil producer is nothing short of spectacular.

Starck sees LA Almazara as a "temple to the glory of eternal olive oil." The building could be described as 'monolithic' with no superfluous details, real and authentic. Built to respect the ecology of the environment, the structure is designed with recycled concrete and recycled plastic. ›

With a visionary mind, Philippe Starck's creativity stems from the idea of improving the lives of as many people as possible. A prolific architect and designer, Starck's signature can be found on an eclectic range of creations including stunning hotels, restaurants, and furniture. There is no end to the ingenuity of the celebrated designer, who pens his creations on paper, rather than a computer screen. An obsessive creator, Starck has more than eleven thousand patents to his name.

The designer's vision for LA Almazara was to capture the quintessence of Andalucía in two standout buildings that are, at once, austere, rigorous, extreme, timeless, and passionate.

AN UNPARALLELED SENSORY EXPERIENCE

A visit to LA Almazara is unique from the get-go. Pulling off the country road into the LA Organic olive grove, a spacious car park

peppered with striking artworks by Spanish and international artists sets the mood for an immersive experience which cleverly blends the worlds of art, nature, architecture, and olive oil. Lovingly produced and harvested by traditional manual methods in the centuries old Finca La Amarilla, which gives the brand its name, LA Organic is a family-run enterprise.

Firstly, you step into the so-called 'Greenhouse' a 500m² space encompassing a shop, restaurant, tasting area, and a projection room. Open from 10am-3pm, here you can enjoy breakfast or tapas and purchase a range of LA Organic olive oils.

However, to fully appreciate what LA Almazara has to offer, indulge your senses with a guided visit to the centuries old olive groves and the strikingly contemporary mill and museum, at the hand of a friendly guide who will bring the vision of the project to life, finishing off the tour with an olive oil tasting session.

During the brief, but intense, ninety-minute visit, you will be immersed in the wonderful world of olive oil. Lauded for its health benefits and widely coveted by foodies the world over, this golden elixir is one of Spain's major exports, accounting for an astonishing forty-five per cent of global production.

Start in the olive groves, which comprise some twenty types of olive tree, from a possible two hundred varieties worldwide. Strolling among ancient and young trees hailing from Spain, Portugal, and Morocco, the guide will give you an insight into the difference between green and black olives, the best time for harvesting, the process of both mechanical and manual harvesting... as well as how to identify the age of an olive tree. >

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THE 'TORO' MILL & MUSEUM

From the olive groves you can appreciate the unique building of the world's first olive oil museum, a Starck masterpiece evoking the quintessence of Andalusian life. Cleverly combining a museum with large-scale artworks as well as a working olive mill, the exterior of the giant terracotta cube is known as the 'toro', or bull, complete with horn, mouth, and tail... Fittingly, one wall incorporates a gigantic olive.

Philippe Starck's eye-catching 'toro' inspired building has divided opinion among locals; some feel that the vast terracotta cube structure of the mill interrupts the beauty of the landscape. Admittedly the cubist shape, jutting horn, 3D olive, and the terrace suspended on gigantic chains are a far cry from traditional Andalusian architecture.

However, when up close and personal with this unique

olive mill – and the first olive oil museum in the world – you can clearly sense Starck's passion for Andalusian culture which permeates every aspect of the design, while honouring Ronda's history, landmarks, famous figures, and olive oil itself.

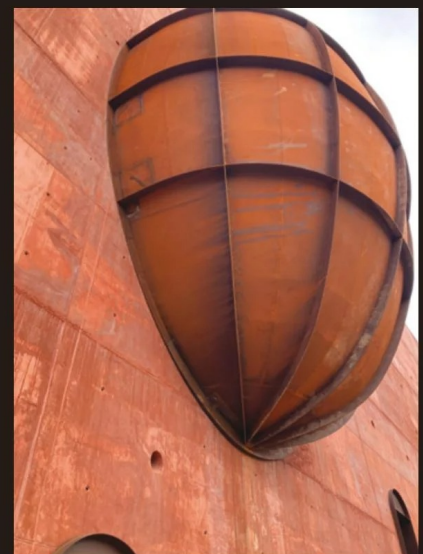
The interior of the twenty-eight metre-high mill is abundantly dark; light is the enemy of good olive oil. Clever lighting along with illuminated panels and showcases cast light on the exhibits explaining the history of extra virgin olive oil, its production, the health properties, and uses.

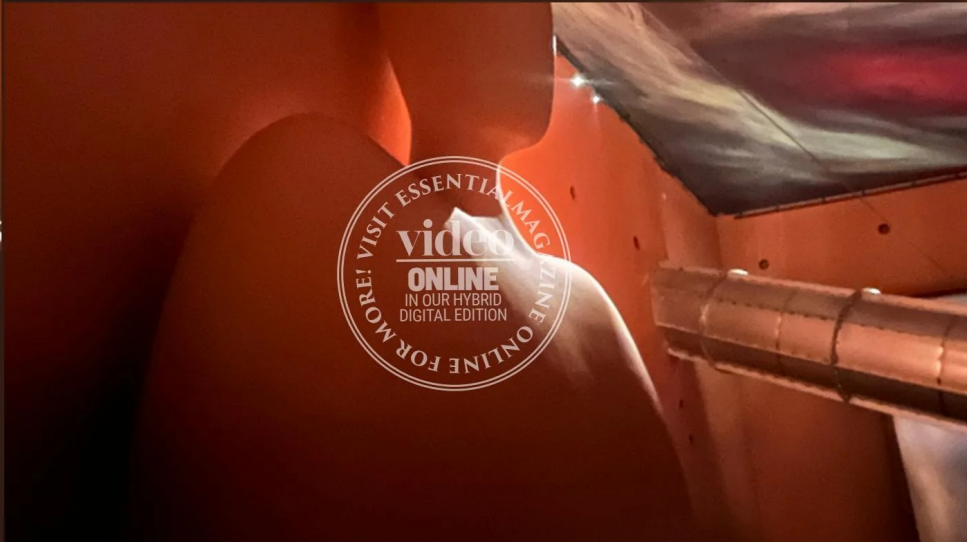
Ara Starck, the designer's artist daughter, has created striking murals of key figures in the history of Ronda bringing to life the walls and ceiling of the museum... and blending together past and present in an illuminating ambience.

On one wall is a reproduction of Goya's portrait of the famous Ronda bullfighter, Pedro Romero, and engulfing

the ceiling is a huge canvas depicting a humble farm worker collecting olives, with nods to the Puente Nuevo over the gorge, the famous Ronda bullring – the oldest in Spain – and a river of olive oil...

Towering above, is an anonymous, oversized ceramic bust; the 'everyman' representing the workers, the public, the locals, and all of humanity; the figure is very much a symbol of Starck's philosophy of 'democratic design'.





FEASTING THE SENSES

Adjoining the restaurant, the huge terrace suspended on mammoth chains is sure to become a must-see venue in which to enjoy fine local dishes, cheeses, preserves, and locally produced wines while drinking in the fabulous views of the Serranía de Ronda.

The pièce de résistance is the giant, gleaming metallic shoot connecting the olive grove outside with the working mill in the basement of the building. During harvesting,

freshly picked olives are loaded into the shoot and, with a deafening roar, they pass down the metal pipe into the waiting hopper, the large deposit that can be seen through the glass floor to the working mill in the basement.

The spectacular facility includes two oversized fireplaces adding warmth and drama to the industrial feel of the building. The second horn of the 'toro' – one inside and one out – completes the scene. ›



EVOO TASTING

The visit finalises back in the 'Greenhouse' with an olive oil tasting. Sitting perched on high stools, visitors are given four samples of different varieties of LA Organic's extra virgin olive oil (EVOO): Suave, Intense, Crianza, and Oro.

Guests are encouraged to savour the oil with their senses, firstly with the eyes, appreciating the delicate golden hues, some yellow, some more golden or green. Then with the nose, and finally, in the mouth experiencing the texture on the tongue and detecting the fruity or spicy hints in the oils, finishing by mopping up the golden liquid with crusty bread to catch every last drop. If you were not familiar with Picual, Hojiblanca, Arbequina and Picudo – all types of olive – you soon will be. The visit concludes with browsing the delicious produce of LA Organic from the well-stocked store of olive oil and other edibles.



Philippe Starck at LA Almazara

It is possible to take the visit to LA Almazara to ever more luxurious heights, adding in gourmet tapas and even chartering helicopter transfers and a private guide for a full-on 5-star experience. You can also choose to picnic or dine among the centuries old olive trees, or even produce your own, labelled olive oil.

Completing LA Almazara is a boutique hotel set in a 19th century cortijo lovingly restored by architect Stefano Robotti in collaboration with Philippe Starck. Combining traditional Andalusian charm and calm minimalism, a stay here offers style and relaxation with serene views of the beautiful Serranía de Ronda.

LA ALMAZARA – LA ORGANIC

CTRA. ARDALES , A367 KM 39,5 RONDA.

PRE-BOOK A VISIT AT 10.30AM OR 12.30PM

WWW.ALMAZARALAORGANIC.COM

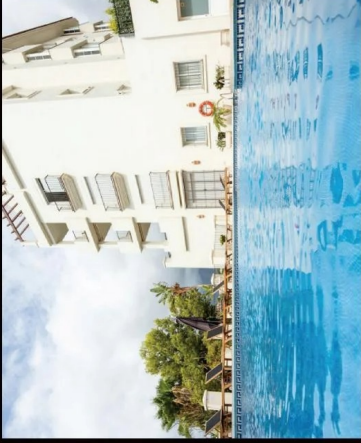




📍 Guadalmina, Marbella
■ 259m² Built, 289m² Plot
🏠 3 🏠 3
€ 1,380,000
REF 209-02382P



📍 Estrella del Mar, Elviria Playa
■ 108m² Built
🏠 2 🏠 2
€ 600,000



📍 Rio Real, Marbella
■ 134m² Built, 20m² Terraces
🏠 2 🏠 2
€ 530,000
REF 209-02662P



📍 The Edge, Estepona
■ 185m² Built, 50m² Terraces
🏠 4 🏠 3
€ 1,750,000
REF 209-02328P

SECURE YOUR GOLDEN VISA

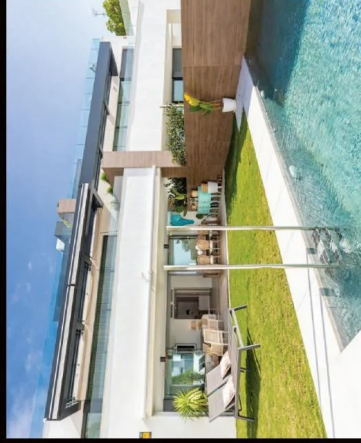
📍 Buenavista, Mijas
■ 314m² Built, 544m² Plot
🏠 4 🏠 3
€ 1,300,000
REF 209-02665P



📍 El Chaparral, Mijas Costa
■ 180m² Built, 54m² Terraces
🏠 3 🏠 2
€ 1,250,000
REF NVG-H06



📍 Cabopino Golf, East Marbella
■ 248m² Built, 216m² Plot
🏠 3 🏠 2
€ 1,250,000
REF 209-02675P



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MARBELLA REALTY

WHAT REALLY ADDS TO A PROPERTY'S VALUE?

ADDED VALUE IN MARBELLA REAL ESTATE

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF DM PROPERTIES & NCH DALLIMORE



Diana Morales Properties, sea views remain of prime appeal

We're all familiar with the famous real estate saying 'location, location, location,' which alludes to the fact that the positioning of a property remains the most important consideration for buyers. But how does one qualify such a factor? How is it reflected in the premium people are willing to pay for the best locations? What is regarded as the best location and are there other factors that directly influence a property's desirability, the price it can demand, and the amount of time it spends on the market? In other words, what are the key factors that add value to a property, more specifically here on the Costa del Sol?

FACTORS THAT ADD VALUE

If two properties are very similar, what will be the deciding factor that makes one more desirable and able to command a higher price per square metre? What will ensure it is snapped up quicker by keen buyers? Is it location alone, and what are the key points that define a top location?

» LOCATION

We might as well start with the most prominent factor: location. Most people will agree that a top location is private and secure yet well communicated and close to facilities such as shops, restaurants, schools and other amenities. The exact interpretation of this can vary in different parts of the world, but here on the Costa del Sol it usually means a gated community in a tranquil setting that is close to all conveniences as well as golf courses and other sports facilities. You may not be able to add being close to the sea or nature to your bucket list if you're in a major city, but here that's exactly what we do regard as a major distinguishing element between competing properties. So much so, in fact,

that concepts such as frontline beach and frontline golf properties are an inherent part of the local property market.

An integral part of a top location in the greater Marbella area is views, with sea views top of most buyers' lists, followed by golf and mountain/country views, but really, if possible, a well-rounded home in these parts should offer all three. "The very pinnacle of real estate in our market is a frontline beach property in an attractive area that is recognised as a top address," says Pia Arrieta Morales, partner at Diana Morales Properties.

"They drive both desirability and added price value," adds Bas de Boer, Director at NCH Dallimore Marbella. The essentials of a top location of this are open, undisturbed sea views and direct access to the beach, ideally within a private and exclusive setting.

'Next best' is a frontline golf location, with views across the fairways of a first-class club. Being able to take your golf buggy straight on to the course from your garden is another added plus, as are such details as club membership included in the home purchase. ›

After these top two of desirability in the Costa del Sol market come homes whose proximity to nature affords beautiful mountain and country views without being too remote. Often, they are set in the hills just in from the coast, and of course if a Marbella home can offer a choice of sea, golf, and mountain views it will add greatly to its appeal.

» SECURITY

The fact that security, usually in the form of gated communities with manned staff is such an important factor can be seen as a sign of the times, but for many a buyer it is almost as important as the home's setting

itself. Peace of mind is of key importance to many, whether they own a holiday home in Marbella or live here year-round, and in its best form it takes the shape of a manned gatehouse with professional security guards and modern security surveillance systems. "Together with sea views, security is the most demanded feature," says Pia.

» AMENITIES

When it comes to the facilities that can be found either as part of a villa or within the communal spaces of an apartment complex, the list of must-haves has been growing steadily over the past decades. Gone are the

times when nice landscaping, swimming pools, and possibly a tennis or padel court were enough. Today's buyer is spoiled with professionally equipped gyms, spas with sauna, a steam bath and heated indoor swimming pool, manned concierge reception, and in recent times even co-working areas, clubhouses, and restaurants.

"The market has evolved a lot over the past years, and now co-working and sporting facilities within apartment complexes have become increasingly valued by buyers," says Pia, but just how highly do buyers rate the respective amenities now being offered?

NCH Dallimore, a frontline golf location is the next best thing to frontline beach



NCH Dallimore, having sea views from all the main areas of the house is a great plus



» SPECIAL FEATURES

Other luxury features that have come into the local market over the past few years include branded properties that carry the name of famous luxury brands better known for fashion, perfumery, and even sports cars. To what extent do they and the often tied-in concierge/serviced concept add to the attraction and price of a villa or apartment in Marbella? Added to such glamorous elements is knowing that your property was designed by a famous architect, the kind of added brand value or 'starchitect' factor that is already quite well known in places such as the USA.

"The growing demand for branded and serviced properties

reflects evolving buyer preferences for convenience and exclusivity," says Bas, while Pia adds that "People who enjoy style and design will be drawn to the name and creations of a particular world-renowned architect, and we're seeing a growing number of famous designers take an interest in Marbella and Sotogrande projects in particular. Having said that, just having a famous name or brand attached to a property is not enough by itself. To have true impact, the home also has to offer the accompanying standard of location, amenities, and services, so with a top international brand association come even higher expectations." ›



Diana Morales Properties, luxury features such as a private spa add value, but how much?

Though this is not an exhaustive statistical analysis, it is the feedback from highly experienced agents that have been working in this market for many years and therefore have the perspective from which to compare and analyse trends affecting the market. Interesting in this is a high degree of correlation in the results, with sea views tipped only by a frontline beach location in terms of importance. Frontline golf and accompanying views remain another classic, while starchitect and luxury brand

affiliation can add 25% or more to the appeal and price of a property.

Security and the comfort of serviced properties also make an impact, but interestingly enough it takes more than just mountain views or a list of on-site amenities to excite most buyers, with such features adding 5-15% to a home's worth. This might come as something as a surprise to some homeowners and developers proud of the luxury facilities they have provided buyers with, yet leave them out and you will fall behind

the competition, making at least core amenities buyers have become accustomed to somewhat of a must-include.

While new trends add above all a competitive edge in the luxury market of our region, it is the timeless set of features that still drives demand and therefore prices the most, bringing us back to where we started: location, location, location!

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MCLAREN **W1**

How do you succeed cars as iconic as the F1 and P1? McLaren unveils its all-new hyper car that pushes EV-bolstered powertrains into a new dimension. Check out McLaren's latest €2.1 million fire breathing tyre slayer!

WORDS **SAM HEXTER** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **MCLAREN**





It's no secret that McLaren had its own enormous pair of shoes to fill when left in the wake of the infamous P1 that debuted over a decade ago. And so, the P1's successor needs to redefine the apex of hyper car performance, ushering in a new dawn for hybrid technologies. And, on paper at least, the all-new W1 certainly seems up to task.

Off the bat, it's fair to say that while the W1 certainly looks striking, it's not quite as in-your-face as the raw design philosophy of the P1 upon launch – with its exposed carbon tub and enormous cutaway sections and spaceship-esque posterior. But the P1 paved the way for McLaren's design language for the next decade, meaning we've had time to digest the shapes and lines over that time across various models from within the lineup. And the W1 is more an evolution of that, at least superficially. Under the skin is where the W1 hides a lot of new tricks. >





Starting from the outside, the W1 keeps a familiar side profile, boasting a rigid carbon-fibre monocoque tub, flanked by extreme cutaways and a hood-mounted intake for channelling air for various practical functions. The doors open skyward, and in the raised position show off the W1's multilayered aero skin. This elite level air management cools the drivetrain, and through the various wings and flaps, enable the active aerodynamics in pushing up to a tonne of downforce onto the W1 at speed. It's the rear wing that serves as the most impressive visual cue of this new pinnacle car. Dubbed the 'Active Long Tail', this e-motor powered spoiler can contort to an impressive array of angles. When deployed in its most

rearward setting, the wing sits 300mm back, which contributes to 650kg of additional downforce on the rear of the car, and 350kg on the front end. With extreme breaking, the wing will act as an airbrake to assist the 390mm carbon-ceramic discs, rising to a vertical position, helping slow the car while maintaining poise under load. The W1 has a truly athletic aesthetic, with a low-slung, wide stance and sharp angles that give it a menacing and purposeful presence.





Inside, this mighty McLaren will offer a driver-focused cockpit, with digital displays and advanced controls that put everything a driver needs right at their fingertips; and really build from the latest interior design found in the 750S. As you'd expect, bespoke options are plentiful, mixing materials such as leather, brushed metals, and carbon-fibre parts, maintaining the luxurious feel that McLaren is known for while providing the necessary functionality and upholding the lightweight, race-ready allure.

Under the skin is where the W1 really seeks to innovate with some impossibly clever tech. Powering McLaren's latest and greatest is an all-new engine; a V8 hybrid powertrain, capable of a combined output of

1,258bhp. You read that right.

On internal combustion power alone, the W1's 4.0-litre V8 produces a staggering 915bhp. Add to that the electric motors, or 'E-module' and that'll boost the output by an additional 342bhp. All that power is sent exclusively to the rear wheels, and in a car that weighs just 1,399kg dry, that results in some seriously impressive performance, and a power-to-weight ratio of 899bhp per tonne. The results? The W1 will see you off to 100km/h in 2.7 seconds, and 200km/h not long after, at 5.8 seconds. And for anyone brave enough, 300km/h in less than 12.7 seconds. To say it's merely fast might be an understatement.

The MHP-8, the name for McLaren's new hybrid V8 motor, will rev out higher than



any other road-going car in the lineup, spinning up to a screaming 9,200rpm. Peak torque comes in at an organ-rearranging 988lb ft of shove, put to work by an all-new eight speed dual-shift transmission, capable of handling higher torque figures than the previous flagship gearbox. Oh, and for any eco-conscious petrol heads out there, McLaren say the W1 is capable of zero-emissions driving on electric power alone. How far? Probably, not very. But it's not really the point. ›





The intentions of the W1 are clear. This is McLaren's follow-up to the pinnacle that was the P1, and there's no doubt that this car will lock horns with Ferrari's F80, and likely a newcomer from Porsche that will be revealed in the not-too-distant future, reassembling the 'holy trinity' of hyper cars from a decade ago. The W1 will be limited to just 399 production examples, all of which have already been allocated to eager clientele to the tune of around €2.100.000. But what an incredibly special motor vehicle to own, if you should be so lucky. 

- » **POWER** 1,258bhp and 988lb ft (1,340nm) of torque
- » **0-100KM/H** 2.7 seconds
- » **TOP SPEED** 350km/h
- » **MARKET ALTERNATIVES** Ferrari F80, Aston Martin Valkyrie, a new Porsche supercar (to be confirmed)
- » **PRICE** From €2.100.000 plus local taxes



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AARON TAYLOR-JOHNSON

AN ACTOR WITH A PASSION FOR VERSATILITY

This month, talented English actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson stars in one of the festive season's biggest predicted blockbusters – the very first Marvel movie from Sony to be released with an 'R' rating owing to its high level of violence-fuelled action. We delve into the mind of the multifaceted actor who is taking Hollywood by storm.

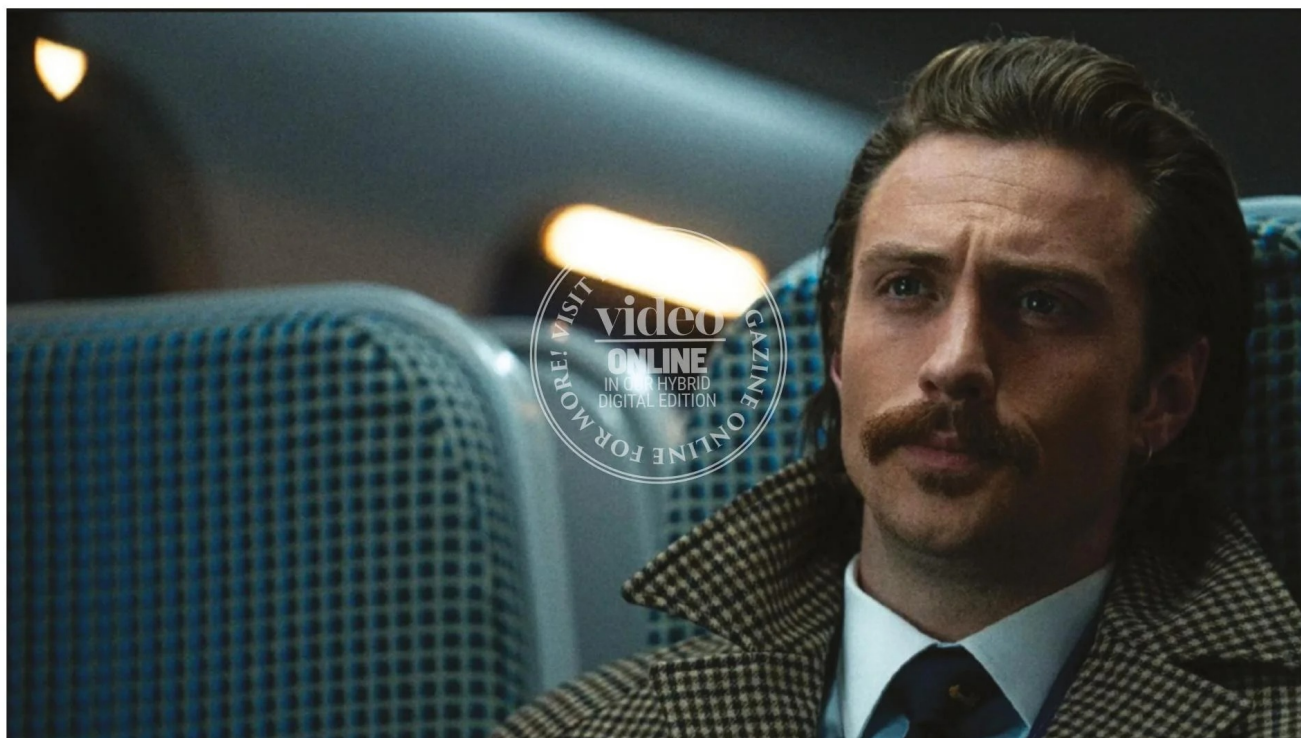
WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**

Aaron Taylor-Johnson may not be a household name in countries like Spain, yet similarly to his colleagues Jake Gyllenhaal, Christian Bale, and Edward Norton, he is a discerning and highly talented actor who chooses his projects carefully. In the UK and Hollywood, he is undoubtedly the man of the moment (it is rumoured that he is in the running to be the new James Bond) but work takes a secondary role in his life. He recently told the online publication *RSNG* that he takes on only one project a year, working for only three to six months. Even during filming, he says, he finds time to be with his family – director Sam Taylor-Johnson and their daughters. Forget about Hollywood stereotypes of the drug-fuelled, party lifestyle. Taylor-Johnson expresses his gratefulness for being in an industry in which he (like other actors) has much more time to be with his children than people in most professions.

Despite starring in so many blockbusters – from the comic superhero flick *Kick-Ass* (2010) to this year's

highly awaited *Kraven the Hunter*, he is still able to blend seamlessly with a crowd. Perhaps it has something to do with how drastically his appearance changes from film to film – think of his nerdy portrayal of the lead in *Kick-Ass* or his muscle-bound, ultra-fit, moustachioed villain in *Bullet Train*. He certainly hasn't gone unnoticed by the critics, having been awarded the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor for his incredible performance as the violent psychopath in Tom Ford's *Nocturnal Animals* (2017). Many critics say he stole every scene, his angelic features belying an evil nature that results in an ungodly crime against the protagonist's wife and daughter. That role was a huge departure from his clean-cut *Kick-Ass* character and it made the world take notice. A serious actor had been born, wrote the press... except they ignored the fact that he had been acting solidly since his early childhood. The actor also shone in *Bullet Train* (2022), showing off his comedic talent while engaging in a series of high-octane action scenes on the high-speed Japanese train the film is named after. ›





It takes big-time charisma to go head-to-head with Brad Pitt in fight scenes, though Taylor-Johnson made it look easy.

At the age of six, he enrolled in a stage school, studying drama, singing, tap dance, jazz, and acrobatics. By the age of nine, he was performing in the West End as Macduff's murdered son opposite Rufus Sewell's Macbeth. His acclaimed performance led him to appear in various productions, including the BBC drama *Armadillo* (2001) and the film *Shanghai Knights* (2003), where he played a young Charlie Chaplin opposite Jackie Chan (the film's lead). His experience with Chan marked his ethos as an actor. Aaron told *Esquire* that Chan would arrive on the set daily, working with his stunt team to discuss ideas for exactly how his fight scenes would unfold. Taylor-Johnson said, "He was daring and fearlessly pushing boundaries. People don't do things, because they're too afraid of looking like a fool – and that cuts out so much creativity."

After *Shanghai Knights*, Taylor-Johnson was thrust into a pit filled with hungry Hollywood agents, each bearing a more lucrative offer, each wanting to turn him into a Disney star. Instead of taking the bait, he turned his back on this career path, telling his parents that the prefabricated path to success was not for him. He decided to go at it on his own, leaving school at 15 and chasing interesting projects, hoping he would be cast by eminent directors. His rivals at these auditions were some of the most successful young British actors of our times: Daniel Kaluuya, Andrew Garfield, Nicholas Hoult, and Jack O'Connell.

Hollywood casting sessions were tough and the actor was initially unsuccessful. He was about to head back to the U.K. when he got a call to read for *Kick-Ass* and the rest is history. While shooting this film in London, he was called to read for *Nowhere Boy*, the story of the young John Lennon. >

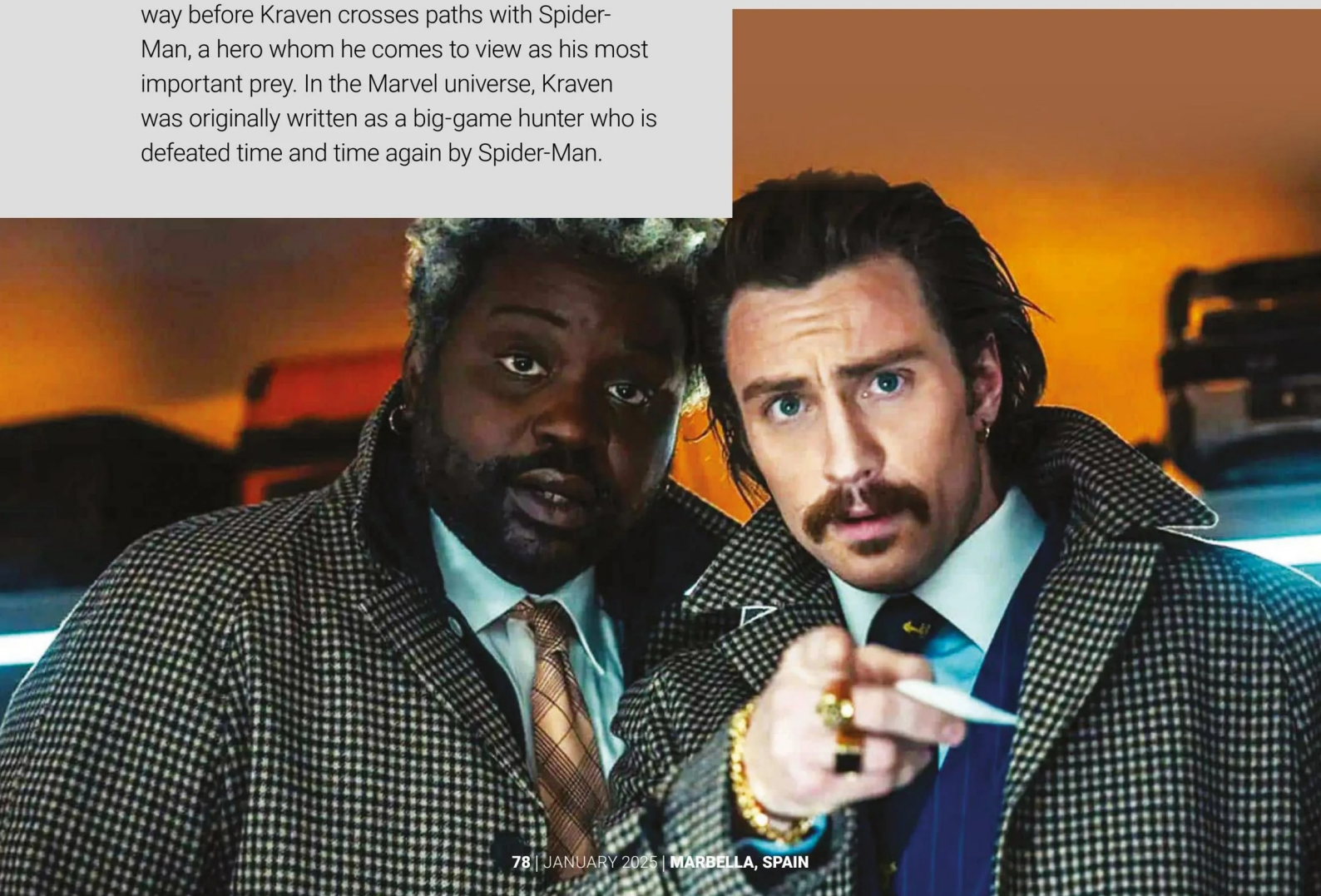


It was there that he met his wife, Sam Taylor-Johnson, who was directing the film. One year later they were engaged and she was pregnant with their first child. Today, he has no difficulty expressing his family is his top priority.

Taylor-Johnson refuses to talk about his possible casting as 007, but does speak effusively about his character, Kraven. Despite playing a superhero for the first time, the role is dramatically different from anything he has done before. If you're into the comics, then you know that this character is bathed in violence and is also one of Marvel's most iconic villains. Kraven is Sergei Kravinoff – a skilled hunter whose abusive gangster father (played in the film by Russell Crowe) sends him on a mission to prove himself and become the world's greatest hunter. The entire film takes place way before Kraven crosses paths with Spider-Man, a hero whom he comes to view as his most important prey. In the Marvel universe, Kraven was originally written as a big-game hunter who is defeated time and time again by Spider-Man.



Bullet Train





Kick-Ass

In 1987, writer J. M. DeMatteis, inspired by the great Russian writer, Fyodor Dostoevsky, wrote one of the greatest Marvel stories of all time: *Kraven's Last Hunt*. This tale saw Kraven fake Spider-Man's death, assume his identity, spare the webbed crusader from death, and kill himself with a rifle. This intense and introspective version of Kraven is more aligned with Taylor-Johnson's vision of the character. For the actor, Kraven's story is a tragedy; one that reveals the consequences of a shadow self coming to the fore. He studied his role well before starting, accompanying a deer hunter to stalk deer, spending time with

an animal conservationist, and studying the works of wildlife photographer, Peter Beard. He was keen to explore the profound relationship between the hunter and the hunted, and the immense guilt that arises when a hunter takes an animal's life.

When Taylor-Johnson is not acting, he can be found in his family's farmhouse in Somerset, where he resides with his wife and children. He speaks gleefully about working with live bees, growing organic vegetables, and spending time with his menagerie animals – including a couple of friendly pigs. The sprawling mansion, where Aaron and Sam said

"I do," was once owned by Grand Designs presenter Kevin McCleod. Its stately beauty and lush surroundings make it easy to see why the actor prefers being at home to tripping the light fantastic in Tinseltown.

Taylor-Johnson has worked on many more highly awaited films since *Kraven the Hunter*, including Robert Eggers' *Nosferatu* and David Leitch's *The Fall Guy*. As mentioned earlier, he is a top contender to succeed the magnificent Daniel Craig as James Bond. Perhaps *Kraven the Hunter* is the ideal vehicle to display his ability at comedy, drama, and action – a combination that Craig has delivered to perfection. **e**



Meet the stars of the Marbella Basketball Team, currently celebrating its 50th Anniversary in Marbella. Get updated on what's trending in Spain and internationally. Preview the best new films and series coming to the large and small screens respectively.

trends

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what's cool?

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IL BOCCONCINO BY ROYAL HIDEAWAY

Il Bocconcino, led by Chef Niki Pavanelli, at Royal Hideaway Corales Resort 5*GL in Tenerife, has obtained its first Michelin Star. With this new award, the hotel has four Michelin Stars, with their El Rincon de Juan Carlos and San-Hô possessing two and one stars respectively. Il Bocconcino has also been recognised as Best Italian Restaurant at the World Luxury Hotel Awards 2024.

| WWW.GASTROCORALES.COM



GQ MEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

An exciting red carpet gala for the GQ Men Of The Year Awards recently took place at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid. The Awards honoured personalities from fashion, music, sports, and social life. The winners included David and José Manuel Muñoz of Estopa, the actor Manu Ríos, while Bad Gyal was awarded GQ Woman Of The Year.

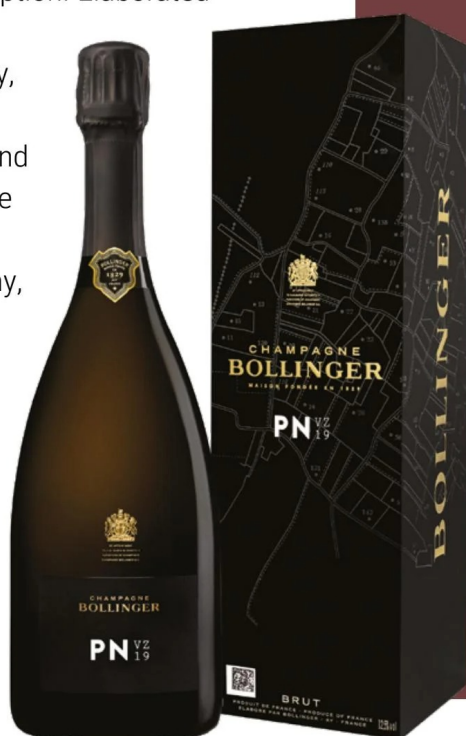
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BOLLINGER PN VZ19

Each new edition of the Cuvée P.N. of Bollinger contributes a unique character and the VZ19 is no exception. Elaborated principally from Pinot Noir del Cru de Verzenay, it exhibits notes of red currants, yellow fruits, and citrus. This new Blanc de Noirs stands out for its expressiveness, harmony, and texture, which perfectly embodies the heritage and spirit of the brand.

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St. Regis Hotels & Resorts and the iconic Italian porcelain brand Ginori are pleased to announce a global partnership that will imbue the best addresses around the world with creative plating and a playful touch to the dining experience. The first Café Ginori as part of this partnership has officially opened at the St. Regis in Florence, the birthplace of the Ginori 1735 brand.

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GLAMOUR WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Glamour Spain held its annual awards for the Glamour Women Of The Year at the FITZ in Madrid, with Eva Soriano as presenter. Awards were given to Karla Sofía Gascón, Beth Ditto, Carolina Marín, Amaral, Rigoberta Bandini, Carmen Espinós, Arón Piper, Ana Peleteiro, Nicole Wallace, Lolalolita, and Nicole van der Velden.

| WWW.GLAMOUR.ES



W PRAGUE

W Hotels, part of the Marriott portfolio, has announced the inauguration of W Prague, beginning a new chapter for the former Grand Hotel Evropa, a renowned Art Nouveau establishment. Situated in Wenceslas Square, the hotel offers 161 stylishly decorated rooms and suites, including the WOW Bohemia Duplex, the emblematic W Lounge, and the panoramic Above Rooftop bar.

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LEXUS & CIRCLASSICA

Lexus is proud to once again accompany Circlassica, the Smile Producers show that seeks to surprise its audience with an exciting performance from more than 30 international artists, musicians, and acrobats. The new Lexus LBX will be on display with this collaboration at Circlassica, The World History Continues, being held at the IFEMA Fairgrounds in Madrid until January 12.

| WWW.CIRCLASSICA.ES
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50 YEARS OF MARBELLA BASKETBALL

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CB MARBELLA



A sociable club that forms part of the local community

NOT EVERYONE MIGHT KNOW THAT
BASKETBALL IS A THRIVING SPORT IN
MARBELLA, BUT THIS YEAR MARBELLA
BASKETBALL CELEBRATES ITS 50TH
ANNIVERSARY!

Originally founded in 1975, Club Baloncesto Marbella has made an enduring contribution to the sports scene in Marbella and the Costa del Sol. The oldest and therefore first basketball club in the province of Málaga, it precedes even professional outfit Unicaja Málaga, having competed in LEB Plata, the third division of the Spanish basketball league for a large part of its history. In the 2021-22 season, the club made it to the semi-final in a quest for promotion to the second division, and although CB Marbella currently plays in Tercera FEB, the fourth tier of Spanish basketball, it can therefore look back on a proud history in the game.

That says a lot in a country that ranks among the European basketball elite, with the likes of Real Madrid and Barcelona multiple European Cup winners, yet CB Marbella's greatest role and its main focus has been as a breeding ground for talent. It has, for instance, produced players such as Alfonso

Sánchez and Carlos Cabezas, both of whom went on to highly successful professional careers with silverware in league and cup competitions. One of its current proteges is Rubén Guerrero, who currently plays in the Spanish selections and for Granada ACB. The strong sense of connection with the club, moreover, is shown in the fact that ex-youth player Alfonso Sánchez now serves as CB Marbella's Vice President, and he in turn is continuing the tradition of nurturing talent.

A FOUNT OF TALENT

While the youth academy, which has gained recognition across Spain, is at the heart of the club, CB Marbella operates within a professional structure and its senior teams have collected a lot of silverware along the way. In the early days of the game in Spain, they played mostly in the second division, and more recently, at the start of 2024, won the Supercopa Diputación de Málaga in a hard-fought final against Unicaja Andalucía. ›



A match at the Pabellón Carlos Cabezas



CB Marbella in league action

There is certainly more success to follow in the coming years, including promotion back to the third division and perhaps even beyond, yet this is a sports club that is as much about community as it is about results on the court.

The emphasis is on developing both body, in the form of athleticism and health, and mind, where character and sporting behaviour are key elements that help CB Marbella players to become winners both on and off the court. The club therefore engages with and feels connected to the city, developing outreach programmes that give young people a chance to become



CB Marbella has a powerful youth academy



Club legend and vice-president Alfonso Sánchez receives his honorary shirt

involved. This includes visits to local schools in the area to promote basketball at the grassroots level. The result has been a very positive reaction from the community, and a constant flow of budding young players.

50TH ANNIVERSARY

During 2025, the club will be celebrating 50 years of presence in Marbella with a range of activities, including free entry and parking, as well as affordable drinks at the Pabellón Carlos Cabezas sports pavilion in the city. CB Marbella is above all a welcoming club that wants everyone to feel at home and connected with. Among the initiatives are regular

Open House Days, when the community is invited to come and visit the club, see the facilities, and meet the players and coaches, as well as those who run the club.

Also look out for special exhibition matches involving former club players, celebrations, a special gala dinner honouring the club's history, and highly reputed youth development programmes, as well as other events that take the club and the sport into the town and connect with it.

The ambition, from here on out, is to remain a part of Marbella's social fabric and build upon the strong foundations that have been created, to return to the

higher divisions of Spanish basketball, and to continue to produce outstanding players who will go on to delight fans at the biggest clubs in Europe. Who knows, maybe even the USA. Everything is possible at a club that over 50 years of presence in Marbella that has been one of the building blocks of basketball in the region. 

CB MARBELLA

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COMPILED BY MARISA CUTILLAS

HOT NEW MOVIES

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THE BRUTALIST

» Director: Brady Corbet (*Funny Games*)

» Genre: Drama » Cast: Adrien Brody, Felicity Jones, Guy Pearce

Visionary architect, László Toth and his wife Erzsébet flee Europe to rebuild their legacy and witness the birth of modern America. Their lives are changed forever when a charming industrialist, Harrison Van Buren, commissions László to design a grand modernist monument. It will be the most ambitious project of his career, and it will put his relationship and everything he stands for to the test. The film's title is inspired by the Brutalist architectural style, which emerged during post-World War II Britain as a response to the need for efficient, cost-effective reconstruction. In many ways, it encapsulated the zeitgeist, which called for functionality and raw aesthetics over form.





HERETIC

» Directors: Scott Beck (*A Quiet Place*), Bryan Woods (*Haunt*)

» Genre: Psychological Thriller

» Cast: Hugh Grant, Sophie Thatcher, Chloe East

Two Mormon missionaries, Sister Barnes and Sister Paxton, visit the home of a strange man called Mr. Reed to spread their faith. He welcomes them with the promise of blueberry pie made by his supposed wife, but as time passes, it becomes clear that he has sinister intentions. He subjects them to a series of twisted challenges and tests of faith, asking them to make a choice between 'belief' and 'disbelief'.





WE LIVE IN TIME

» **Director:** John Crowley (*Brooklyn*)

» **Genre:** Romance

» **Cast:** Andrew Garfield, Florence Pugh, Grace Delaney

A beautifully romantic film covering a decade-long period in the lives of a couple. Andrew Garfield plays Tobias – a recently divorced Weetabix representative who is struck by a car driven by Almut – a former figure skater-turned-chef. The unfortunate event leads to a date and the start of a loving relationship. The couple has a child and Almut begins to reap great success as a chef. However, an unexpected diagnosis forces her to choose between her health and her ambitions.





A REAL PAIN

» **Director:** Jesse Eisenberg
(*When You Finish Saving the World*)

» **Genre:** Drama

» **Cast:** Jesse Eisenberg, Kieran Culkin

This moving story centres on two estranged cousins who reunite after the death of their Polish grandmother and take a guided tour of Poland. Kieran Culkin plays Benji – a free spirit with a warm, lively sense of humour who is confident and witty. Jesse Eisenberg plays David – a husband and father who is uncomfortable with showing his emotions but cares deeply about his cousin. Their relationship proves that when cousins are separated and reunite after many years, it often feels like they have seen each other ‘only yesterday’.



SONIC 3

» **Director:** Jeff Fowler
(*Sonic the Hedgehog 1 and 2*)

» **Genre:** Animation

» **Cast:** Idris Elba, Keanu Reeves, Ben Schwartz

Sonic, the anthropomorphic hedgehog capable of running at supersonic speeds, is back for a third time to delight young audiences with his sparky personality and passion for defending victims against injustice. This time, Sonic and his friends Tails and Knuckles face their toughest challenge yet, since a mysterious threat (voiced by Idris Elba) emerges from a parallel dimension, hell-bent on causing destruction. Our heroes team up with a rogue mercenary (voiced by Keanu Reeves) in a race against time. Can they stop the power-hungry villain from obliterating their planet?

COMPILED BY MARISA CUTILLAS

HOT NEW SERIES

by Ben Stiller

Severance



SEVERANCE

S2 (NETFLIX)» **Creator:** Dan Erickson (*Chambers*)» **Genre:** Dystopian Science Fiction» **Cast:** Adam Scott, John Turturro, Tramell Tillman

Season 2 will continue the storyline from Season 1's cliffhanger ending. Mark, Irving, and Helly's 'innies' broke free and entered the outside world in the final episode, giving us hope that they would reveal the cruelty of the 'severance' experiment. The plot explores the consequences of tampering with the severance barrier. It begins with Mark S. waking up in the Lumon elevator and rushing to his office space, only to find that he has completely new co-workers!

PARADISE

SI (HULU)

» **Creator:** Dan Fogelman (*This Is Us*)

» **Genre:** Thriller

» **Cast:** Sterling K. Brown, James Marsden, Krys Marshall

Paradise is set in a peaceful community inhabited by some of the world's wealthiest individuals. Their world explodes when the President of the US, Cal Bradford, is murdered. The last person to see the President's body is his Head of Security, Xavier Collins, so he becomes the initial suspect. A flashback shows him entering a meeting in the Oval Office, where he is encouraged by a mysterious character to participate. A chaotic state of emergency ensues as Xavier navigates the turmoil of being a father and protector of the most powerful man in the nation.

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MISSING YOU

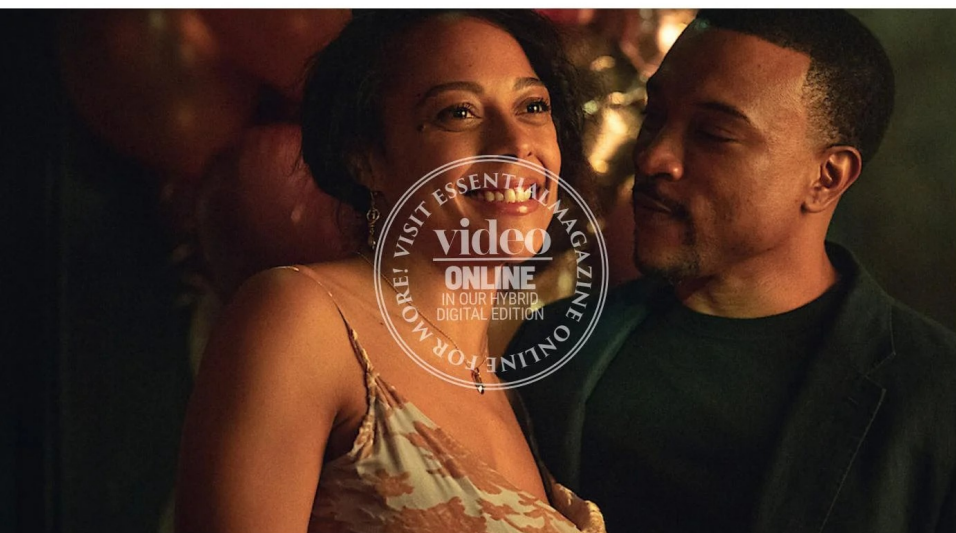
SI (NETFLIX)

» **Creator: Harlan Coben**
(*The Innocent*)

» **Genre: Thriller**

» **Cast: Rosalind Eleazar, Richard Armitage, James Nesbitt**

Missing You is the ninth adaptation of best-selling author, Harlan Coben's work on Netflix. The story centres on Detective Kat Donovan (Rosalind Eleazar) whose life takes an unexpected turn when she discovers her ex-fiancé Josh on a dating app, 11 years after his mysterious disappearance. A teenager named Brendan approaches Kat about his missing mother, who was last seen with Josh. She launches an investigation and fearlessly revisits long-buried secrets from her past.





PRIME TARGET

S1 (APPLE TV+)

» **Creator:** Steve Thompson (*Sherlock*)

» **Genre:** Thriller

» **Cast:** Leo Woodall, Quintessa Swindell, Ali Suliman

A brilliant young postgraduate in mathematics, Edward Brooks, is on the verge of a major breakthrough. If he succeeds in finding a specific mathematical pattern, he will hold the key to every computer in the world. He begins to suspect that there is a troubling conspiracy being developed around him. He is thrown into the orbit of Taylah Sanders, a special agent whose role is to keep an eye on him and report on his behaviour.

Together, they must unravel a complex mystery that requires more than Edward's supreme intelligence to work out.



AMERICAN PRIMEVAL

S1 (NETFLIX)

» **Creator:** Mark L. Smith
(*The Revenant*)

» **Genre:** Western

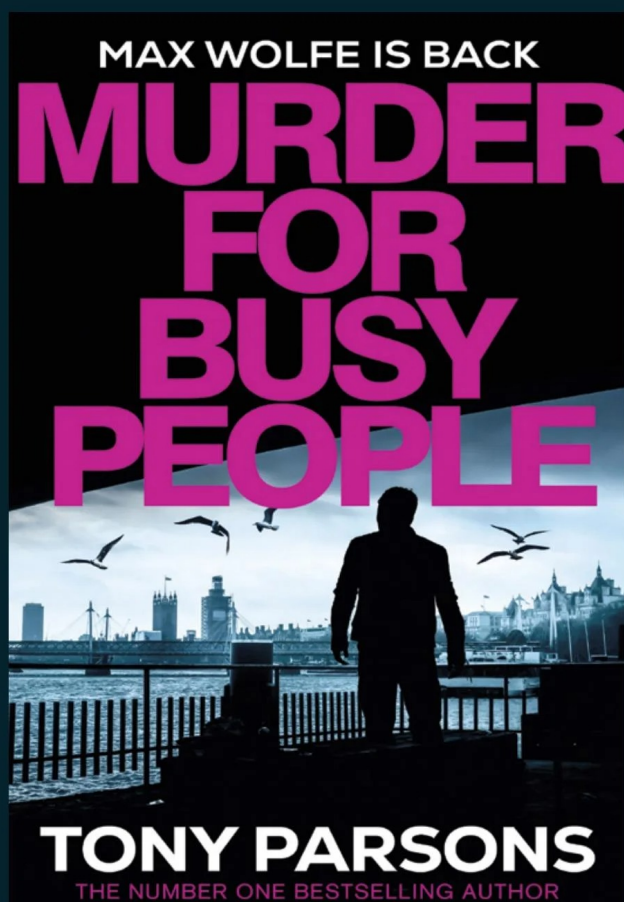
» **Cast:** Taylor Kitsch, Dane DeHaan, Betty Gilpin

A six-part series set in 1857 that explores the violent birth of the American West. It revolves around different groups, including bounty hunters and trappers, Mormon settlers, and inhabitants of the former fur trading post of Fort Bridger, Wyoming. It depicts the violent collisions of cultures, religions, and communities as people battled for control of the new world and showcases the great sacrifices they made. **e**

READING

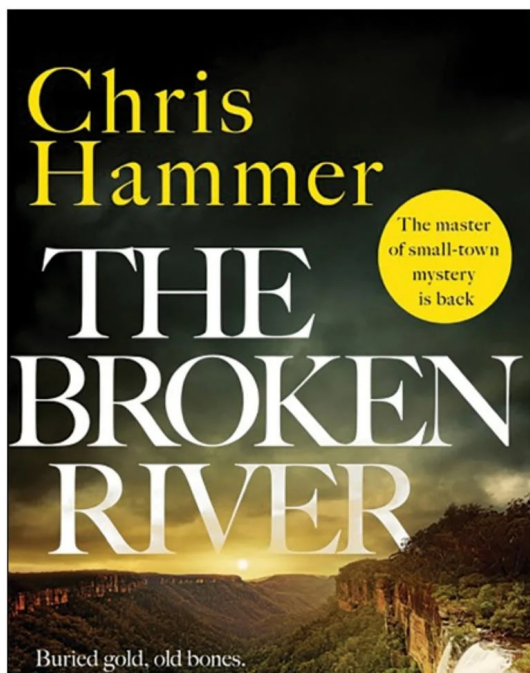
SOME EXCITING TITLES TO START THE NEW YEAR!

WORDS **ALICIA DUGGAN** OF THE BOOKSHOP IN SAN PEDRO DE ALCÁNTARA , CC LA COLONIA LOCAL 21,
SAN PEDRO DE ALCÁNTARA. TEL: 951 779 785. WWW.THEBOOKSHOPS



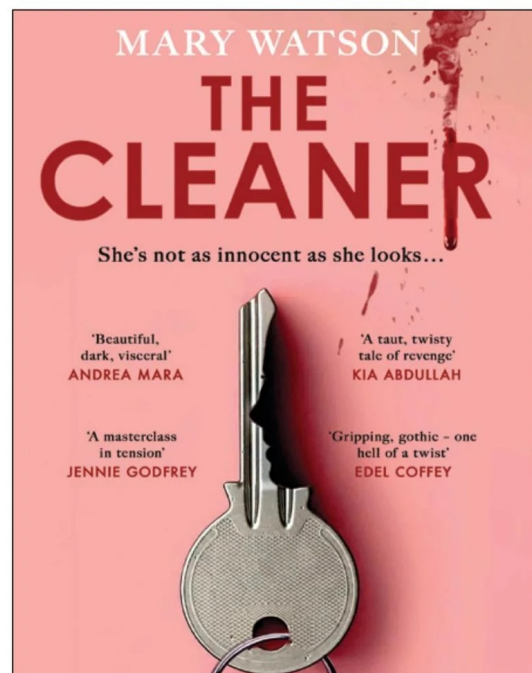
MURDER FOR BUSY PEOPLE BY TONY PARSONS

Emma Moon is out of prison after 16 years. Convicted for a notorious armed robbery that left two men dead, she kept the code, never revealing who was with her or who pulled the trigger. Now free, Emma finds everything she once had, her family, her share of the money, her husband gone. Fuelled by a thirst for payback, Emma is determined to reclaim what's hers. With a network of dangerous allies from her time inside, she's ready to leave a trail of vengeance in her wake. Standing in her way is Max Wolfe, the detective who first arrested her. Now a single father, dog owner, music enthusiast, and fiercely principled investigator, Max must face Emma again. Fast paced and relentless, this gripping crime thriller pits a hardened criminal against a detective with his own unyielding code of honour.



***THE BROKEN RIVER* BY CHRIS HAMMER**

When the body of deputy mayor Wolfgang Burnside is found on the riverbank of The Valley, a remote New South Wales community, questions swirl. Burnside was hailed by some as a visionary, championing plans to revive the region with hydropower from the lake surrounding its long-abandoned gold mine. To others, he was a schemer. Now, his poisoning has unearthed more than just a crime, it's dredged up The Valley's darkest secrets. Detectives Nell Buchanan and Ivan Lucic are sent to investigate, uncovering a web of lies, buried grudges, and whispers of long-lost gold. As they peel back layers of the town's history, they discover secrets worth killing for, secrets that could cost The Valley dearly. Rich with atmosphere, intrigue, and generations-old mysteries, *The Broken River* is an enthralling tale of greed, betrayal, and the ghosts of the past.

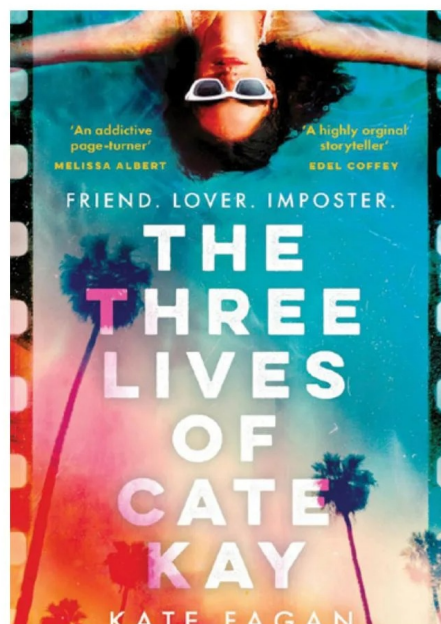
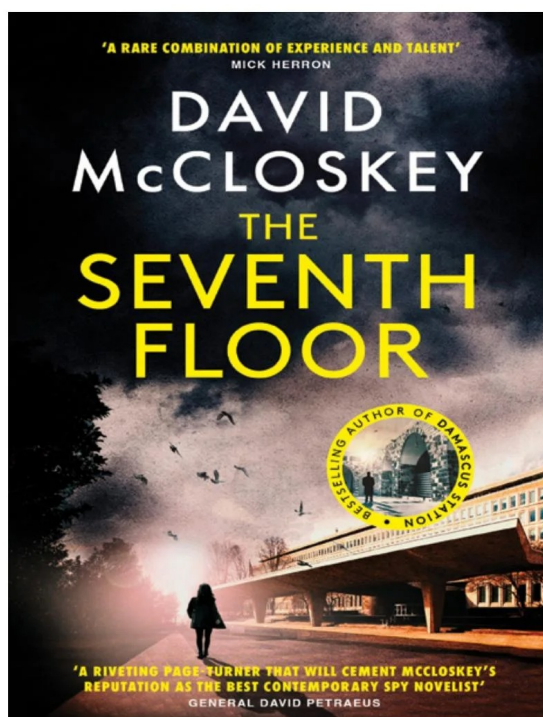


***THE CLEANER* BY MARY WATSON**

Esmie isn't your ordinary cleaner, she's invisible, a quiet presence in the opulent homes of the Woodlands gated community. Armed with her duster and a foreign accent no one bothers to place, she drifts unnoticed through lives of privilege, collecting more than just dust. Beneath the gleaming surfaces, she uncovers secrets: broken marriages, hidden betrayals, and whispered failures. But Esmie has her own secret. She's not here to clean. One of these residents stole the person she loved most, and now she's out for revenge. With the keys to their homes and their darkest truths as her weapons, Esmie is ready to upend their perfect facades. A dark and gripping tale of privilege, identity, and vengeance, this sinister page-turner will captivate fans of Harriet Tyce and Lisa Jewell.

THE SEVENTH FLOOR BY DAVID MCCLOSKEY

When a Russian asset is murdered in Singapore and CIA officer Sam Joseph vanishes during their meeting, Artemis Procter takes the fall. Disgraced and forced out of the agency, Procter's career seems over, until Sam reappears months later with a staggering secret: a Russian mole is embedded in the CIA's highest ranks. Determined to uncover the truth, Procter and Sam launch a dangerous investigation that implicates Procter's closest allies and fiercest enemies. Their pursuit of the mole forces Procter to confront her own shadowy past while navigating the deadly moves of a brilliant Russian spymaster, willing to unleash chaos to protect Moscow's asset. Set against the intrigue-filled corridors of Langley and the Kremlin, *The Seventh Floor* by David McCloskey is a masterful espionage thriller, blending action with profound questions of loyalty, friendship, and the personal cost of serving a faithless cause.



THE THREE LIVES OF CATE KAY BY KATE FAGAN

For years, Cate Kay has been the world's most beloved, mysterious author, captivating millions with bestselling novels and a blockbuster film franchise. But Cate Kay doesn't exist, she's just a name. Behind the pseudonym is Anne Marie Callahan, a woman who disappeared from her past, leaving no one who could link her to the runaway girl she once was. Now, she's Cass Ford, introducing herself with a borrowed name to the woman who will become the love of her life. Three names. Three lives. But Cate Kay is finally ready to reveal the truth. As secrets unravel, Cate's story asks: when the world learns who she really is, will she remain its favourite storyteller, or will the weight of betrayal overshadow her legacy? A dazzling debut for fans of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, this is a tale of love, reinvention, and the price of fame. 

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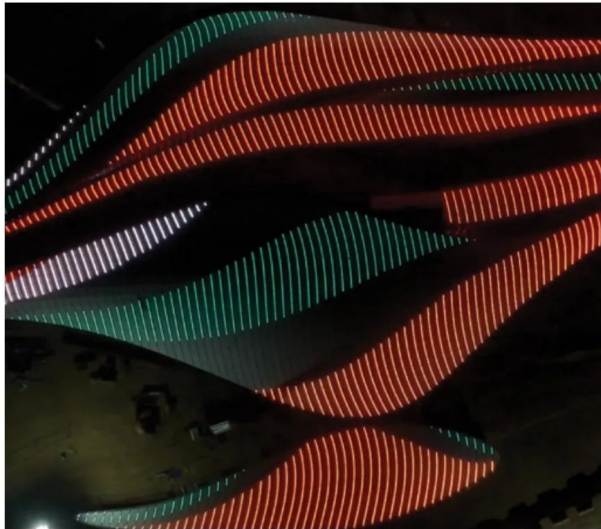
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Become entranced with the digital architectural themes being pioneered by Zaragoza-based Oboria. See the new Pantone Colour for 2025. Find out why Erborian Korean Skin Therapy is all the rage, and learn about some of the secrets to losing weight.

lifestyle

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OBORIA

DIGITAL ARCHITECTURE

We live in changing times, where technology's progress is so fast that we struggle to keep up. Some, however, see the potential such new toolsets can add to classic skills. In the past, they were generally called visionaries.

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF OBORIA DIGITAL ARCHITECTURE

If you've ever wondered what qualifies someone as a pioneer it is the willingness and ability to see new possibilities and have the courage and enthusiasm to embrace new ways of doing things. Much of what we do is rooted in traditions that have been long-established and are embedded in our cultures, our psyche, and our work routines, yet these are times of groundbreakingly fast technological evolution in which ever-faster tech improvements are 'disrupting' the conventional economic environment and shaking the ground under our feet. The Austrian-American economist Joseph Schumpeter called this process of new technologies destroying old industries and in the process creating new ones, 'Creative Destruction' – pretty much what we today understand as 'Disruptive Technology'.

A WORLD OF NEW POSSIBILITIES

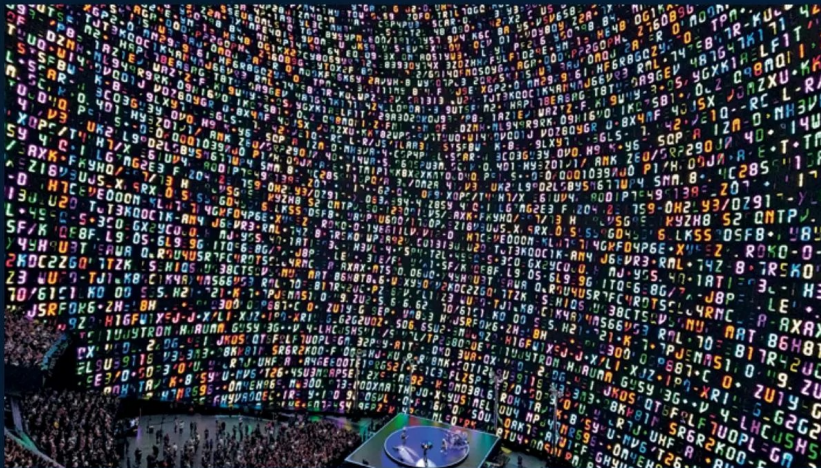


© Robert @AdobeStock

Futuristic buildings like The Sphere are no longer static, but 'alive' © Mariusz @AdobeStock

Schumpeter's is a beautifully coined description, as this is exactly what is happening right now — a destruction of many of the old ways of doing things and from their ashes the birth of new possibilities. We've seen it happen before, when the mechanisation of the Industrial Revolution became known as the First Machine Age. ›

The inside of The Las Vegas Sphere is equally impressive
© Dave Stadley CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons



It changed the world profoundly, leading both to the prosperity and the problems we have today, and according to many we are now in the midst of a Second Machine Age – another period of great change that threatens to leave much of the old behind and replace it with the promise of new possibilities far beyond the paradigm of what we have thus far imagined possible. ›

New technologies also have the capacity to bring buildings such as the Dubai Burj Khalifa to life
© Ed Nurg @ AdobeStock



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By ANDREA BÖCK

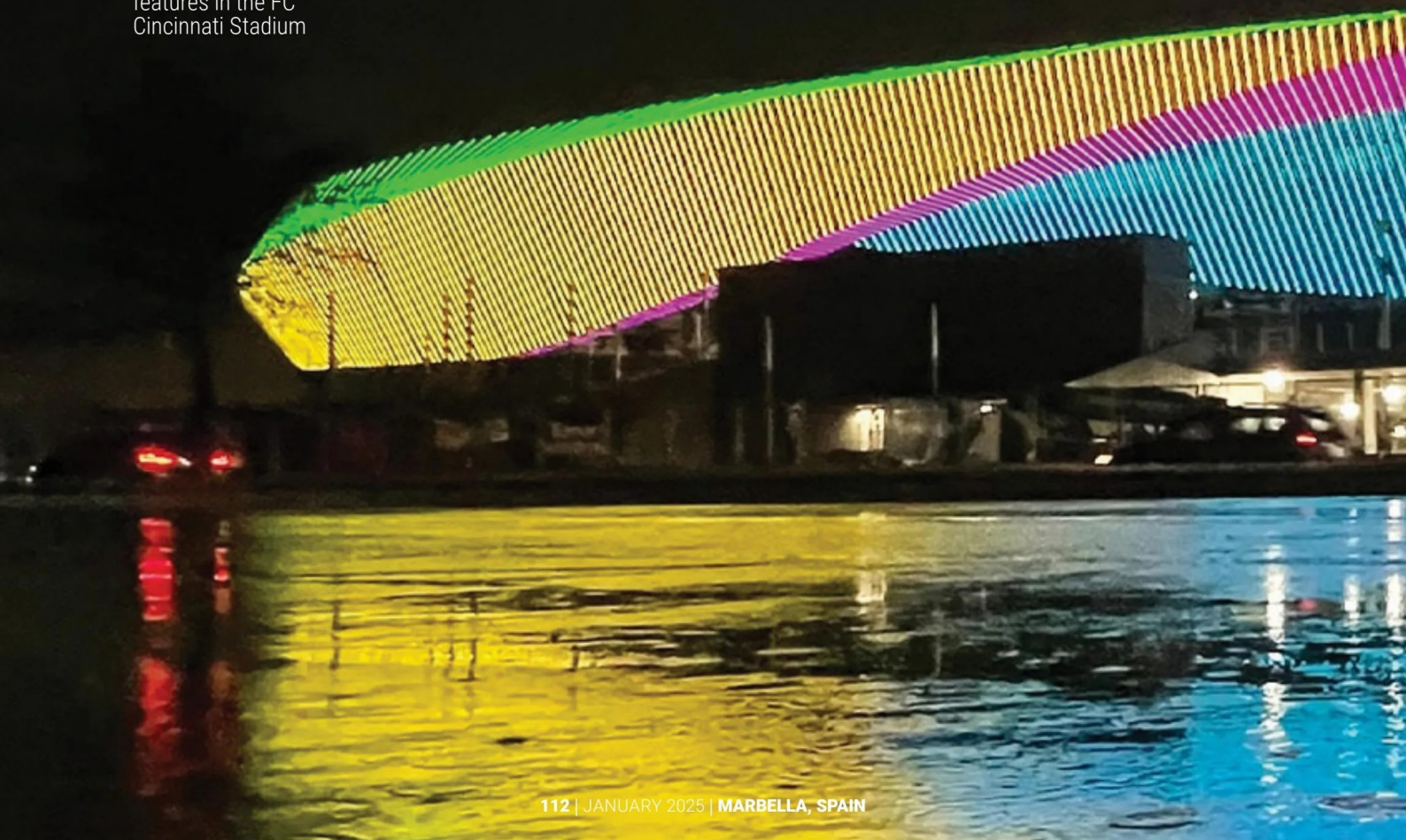
TECHNOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE

Architecture and technology have always had a close, even entwined relationship. This is true of classical times and also of the Renaissance, when the people who built great edifices were also at the forefront of the rediscovery of maths, physics, and science in general. All of this made the Industrial Revolution and the world we live in today possible, and it seems ready for another leap. And yet, today architects seem to have lagged behind a little, producing often futuristic looking designs but still using yesterday's methods to get there. In other words, architecture has fallen well behind IT,

engineering, scientific research, and other technical disciplines in its use of modern technology – and the opportunities and toolsets it offers.

The technology has been there for some time, and by this we don't mean AutoCAD, which has been around long enough for it to be called 'yesterday's' technology. Yes, most architectural firms have left the drawing board behind in favour of this kind of software, but as Miguel Fontgivell, founder of Oboria Digital Architecture realised early on in his career, this approach is increasingly outdated and out of touch with the technology and possibilities available right now. ›

Next-generation design
features in the FC
Cincinnati Stadium





OBORIA DIGITAL ARCHITECTURE

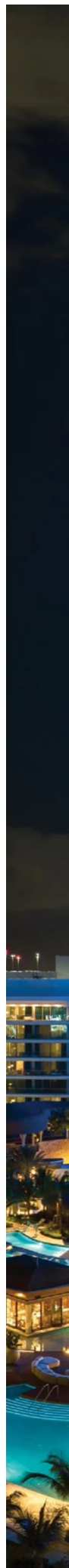
"I wasn't too far into my career as an architect when I realised that we were working in much the same way as the professors who taught us had done. That is to say, like the previous generation, which is fine except for the fact that we are now designing for an increasingly complex world that has to incorporate more and more electronics and data. The tools that help us to do so efficiently and accurately are at hand and improving all the time, but as of yet only a very small percentage of architects are using them." Looked at from this perspective, there is then an increasing disparity between the complex requirements of modern-day construction and the methods used to solve them.

Oboria Digital Architecture was born out of a new world of possibilities that digital technology makes possible, for Miguel realised that his field, and the world around it, was going to become more, not less complex, and required the right methodology to tackle it.

"We no longer just design and construct a building with heating, lighting, electricity, and an Internet connection. Everything is increasingly interconnected and complex, and much of it revolves around data, and the accurate and efficient processing of it. Most architects use AutoCAD to create designs that need to function in this environment, and well beyond into the future, when things will be even more advanced. However, designing simple lines in abstract that then have to be translated into the 'language' of engineers, electronics specialists, and builders, as well as eventually hooked up to city-wide digital smart systems, is not the ideal approach."

He emphasises that it is a time-consuming method that is also susceptible to human error, especially on the technical side, where getting calculations and specifications right is of great importance. "At Oboria we make full use of digital tools that ensure that when we design a structure, what we draw are not just 'lines' but are charged with the kind

of information that allows the system to immediately recognise it as a loadbearing wall, a stairwell, or a conduit for piping or cabling. You would be amazed how important this leap in intelligence and efficiency is, as the software instantly calculates the length, depth, and even the technical specifications and materials required. This needs to be checked by humans at the end, but it means that not only can you move so much faster, focusing on the creative problem solving and aesthetic part of the job and leaving the donkey work to the machine, but you're building an entire interactive 3D model that is fully compatible with what engineers work with. It means you can collaborate with them in real-time and make changes and adaptations – which is common during the course of most projects – as you go along, without having to laboriously redo everything. You see, the system incorporates all the changes and then updates the entire design accordingly."





Digital architecture is producing complex new design icons such as the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood
© Bilanol @ AdobeStock

*“DIGITAL
ARCHITECTURE
STANDS OUT FOR ITS
ABILITY TO CREATE
ACCURACY AND COME
UP WITH SOLUTIONS
FOR HIGHLY COMPLEX
SYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY
IN THE FIELD OF
ELECTRONICS,
ENGINEERING AND
DATA, NOTABLY WITHIN
THE INTERACTIVE
‘SMART’ BUILDINGS OF
THE FUTURE.”*

SMART DESIGN

What Miguel is describing is at the heart of next-generation integrated design-to-construction systems such as BIM, but whereas his methodology is in perfect sync with it, mere AutoCAD designs fall short of the real concept and requirements of BIM. “Our system adapts in real-time as the project evolves, whereas most studios have to spend a huge amount of time retracing their steps each time something is changed. This represents a huge saving in time, efficiency, leads to fewer human errors, and allows us to focus on the main tasks at hand – creative design and problem solving.” Not surprisingly, this also translates into significant cost reductions and makes possible construction projects that were once deemed too expensive and complex. ›



The Sphere in Las Vegas –
created with the help of Spain-
based Oboria © Marcus Jones
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A new world of possibilities opens up with digital architecture

The expertise he and his team have built up in this as yet highly specialised field of architecture makes Oboria Digital Architecture a world leader that is not only contracted by top developers and construction corporations, but also by engineering and architectural firms. “Perhaps our most famous project to date is The Sphere in Las Vegas, where the benefits of digital architecture were truly highlighted in a building with a curved, organic skin made up of hundreds of small tiles. After modelling the dome, a traditional architect would create the tiles and then the drawings. In our case, the geometry of the roof is an input and its partition into tiles a single process. If anything is changed with the design, it is automatically recalculated and updated – and you have a perfect new design. This is exactly the kind of quantum leap in workflow that will make avant-garde projects possible and bring buildings to ‘life’, providing valuable data that will lead to further advances in efficiency.”

In short, digital architecture is the future and it is here already. 

PANTONE OF THE YEAR MOCHA MOUSSE

DISCOVERED BY **MADDIE QUINN**

Following its annual tradition, the Pantone Colour Institute has picked PANTONE 17-1230 to be the hue of 2025. Described as a rich, nurturing brown with undertones reminiscent of chocolate and coffee, Mocha Mousse promises to satisfy our desire for comfort. It exudes sophisticated, earthy elegance, making it a standout shade on its own or as a versatile foundational colour. This selection is poised to enhance and elevate palettes across all colour-centric industries, seamlessly fitting into both minimalist and intricately detailed designs.

Bobbi Beck, Groove Line Retro Wallpaper

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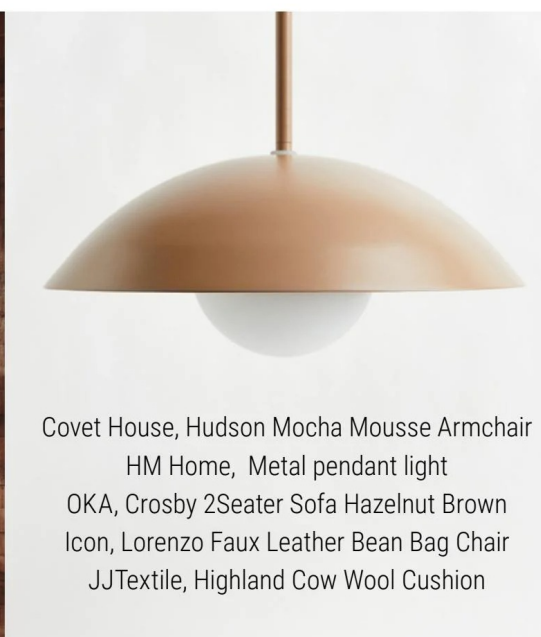
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TRENDY TRAINERS

DISCOVERED BY **MADDIE QUINN** PHOTOGRAPHY **IMAXTREE AND RESPECTIVE BRANDS**



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Welcome to the world of trendy trainers, the stylish cornerstone of 2025's casual fashion scene! As we embrace a new year, these versatile kicks are not just about comfort; they are a bold statement of personal style and innovation.

From vibrant colour palettes to eco-friendly materials, join us as we explore how these must-have shoes are stepping up to define everyday fashion, blending seamlessly with both cutting-edge technology and streetwise aesthetics.



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SPEZIAL

SAMBA

CURATED BY **MARISA CUTILLAS**

ERBORIAN

KOREAN SKIN THERAPY

K-beauty has been big in the skincare industry for decades, with Korean beauty rituals sometimes encompassing 10 or more steps! Erborian, a brand that has taken the world by storm, makes beauty a far easier goal, with short, three-step day and nighttime routines. The brand has a wide range of BB and CC creams, primers, cleansers, masks, exfoliants, serums, moisturisers, anti-blemish, eye care products, and more. Check out a few of their best-selling items!



TRANSLUCENT EVERYTHING

Have you seen the latest manicures in semi-transparent red, brown, or nude yet? If you'd like to try it at home we recommend Vishine's gelpolish in Sheer Nude.

GOLDEN SHINE

You don't need to wait until the holiday season to add a bit of shine to your manicure. For this look, we recommend Rimmel's 60 Seconds Super Shine in the tone 831 Oh My Gold!

1 – CC CRÈME

A light cream with SPF 25 sunscreen and centella asiatica that soothes skin and lends it a healthy glow.

2 – CC RED CORRECT

An anti-redness skin corrector enriched with centella asiatica and SPF 25.

3 – SUPER BB CONCEALER-SERUM

This medium-to-full coverage concealer is enriched with niacinamide, white ginseng complex, and SPF25 to brighten and smoothen skin.

4 – GINSENG SUPER SERUM

This top-selling serum contains panax ginseng root extract, as well as a white ginseng complex and red ginseng extract. These ingredients help to fight the signs of ageing while also smoothening and firming skin.

5 – SKIN THERAPY – MULTI-PERFECTING NIGHT OIL SERUM

This multi-perfecting night face oil serum has 17 plant extracts that work while you sleep, improving skin texture, complexion evenness, luminosity, fine lines, plumpness, nutrition, and suppleness.

6 – CENTELLA CLEANSING GEL

Use this centella asiatica-based cleanser daily to intensively purify your skin without making it feel tight.



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THE SECRETS TO WEIGHT LOSS

Did you know that in 2024 there are more than three billion obese people on our planet? It's at record levels! Do you know someone who gained unwanted weight? Are they currently trying to lose weight? Have you struggled with weight loss? If so, what's causing this? WORDS **MARC R MANKLOW**

Firstly, we were never meant to be sitting behind a desk all day! Our bodies are designed to move!

Movement prevents muscle wastage, especially in your legs. It also encourages microcirculation and stimulates your metabolism. Implementing more movement in your workplace particularly after meals that are ultra processed can help offset insulin resistance and maintain your muscle mass as you'll burn more calories at rest. Use an hourly alarm to remind you to walk or stair climb and finish with 20 squats if you can.

One of my secrets to staying lean is to activate momentary muscular failure twice a week

in a gym as this will increase testosterone and growth hormone levels naturally which aids in fat burning! Unfortunately we live in a world where more and more chemicals in our environment mimic and create excessive oestrogen in our bodies, creating more fat storage. You might have heard about man boobs, decreasing fertility rates, obesity, lack of sex drive, etc., all fuelled by an oestrogen dominant environment. If you have accumulated a lot of intra abdominal fat called visceral fat then it produces even more oestrogen and inflammatory chemicals compounding your health problems.

Incredibly, it's now estimated that one in four people in the western world have some form

of fatty liver disease. What's causing this? It's something that nature usually produces once a year to fatten animals and humans up as quickly as possible... FRUIT! But Marc, I hear you cry, we are told to eat fruit three to five times a day! As well as smoothies and fruit juice. Which is why it's one of the driving forces behind obesity. Fruit sugar (fructose) is unique as it gets metabolised in your liver and turned into fat to protect you against starvation in the winter, or famine in the dry season in the tropics; remember wine is fermented fructose also. It's not normal to have it year round let alone three times a day. The spill over from a fatty liver also contributes to type 2 diabetes by filling

the pancreas with visceral fat sending your insulin producing cells to sleep and increasing blood sugar. The good news is that all this can be reversed very quickly. Highly refined foods which lack fibre also contribute, allowing you to become overfed and undernourished, changing the beneficial

bacteria colonies to ones that create inflammation, depression, and destroy your gut microbiome. Combine that with highly refined seed oils and you're compounding inflammation, which is one of the leading factors of most disease and weight gain.

It is possible to reverse type 2 diabetes within 30 days via a specialised protocol that removes this type of fat from the pancreas and liver by using a naturally occurring protein in the human body that sends specific instructions to your hypothalamus to unlock locked away fat. It then becomes quite easy for you to metabolise 10-15kg of this toxic fat while preserving your muscle tissue, reducing inflammatory markers, and producing remarkable health effects like cleansing the powerhouses of your cells so you can feel more energised again!

It's my professional opinion that the hypothalamus is the root cause of the obesity crisis and

only when it's reset do the problems begin to go away. However after any fat loss has taken place, the one thing most people are not taught is how to stabilise their new metabolic set point so that no rebound takes place. This secret I teach normally takes around 21 days to achieve and is rarely if ever taught. The new craze of Ozempic and other GLP1 blockers comes with a whole host of side effects including death! These drugs don't address the psychological issues that got the person obese in the first place. Habits and consumptions play a very large part in the obesity puzzle. Which is why I like to address the client's thought processes and past traumas. We look at their habits and consumptions. We test different systems in the body before undergoing the 25 to 37 day transformation protocol. Finally, intense exercise is not allowed during this phase as it often creates water retention due to the stimulation of mast cells.

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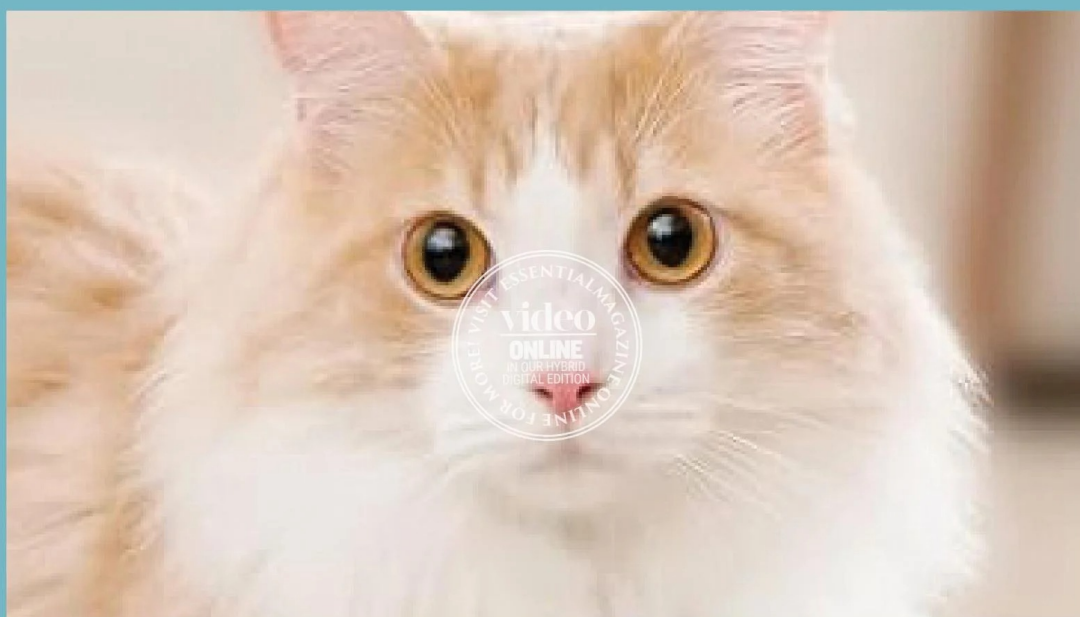


WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS**

TOP TOYS AND GADGETS TO KEEP KITTENS OCCUPIED

If you've just welcomed a new kitten into your home, then you probably know they can be a handful! Kittens are naturally energetic and playful and they need plenty of stimulation to support their physical and mental development. As a whole, they require around an hour or more of exercise per day. You can break this up into various play sessions lasting around 15 minutes

each. Recommended activities include those that mimic hunting, including exploring, pouncing chasing, and pushing toys around on the floor. It is vital to create exciting spaces they can explore (such as cardboard boxes and climbing structures) and offer them various toys and gadgets that can keep them engaged. We suggest the following, most of which are found on Amazon as well as in stores like Kiwoko, Tienda Animal, and more.



1 - IOKHEIRA INTERACTIVE CAT TOYS 2-IN-1 AUTOMATIC CAT TOY WITH MOVING FEATHER

A motorised toy featuring a mouse that appears unpredictably from four holes, making for an exciting game of whack-a-mole.

WWW.IOKHERA.COM

2 - FLAMINGO DITA ELECTRONIC CAT TOY

This cat toy with a rotating play swing and play balls will keep your cat entertained for hours. It even has a bell and lights!

| AVAILABLE ON WWW.FLAMINGO.BE



2



3 - FLAMINGO YOYO ELECTRONIC CAT TOY

An oscillating ball your kitten will enjoy trying to catch!

| WWW.FLAMINGO.BE

4 - FURBO 360 CAT CAMERA

This camera was specifically designed for 'cat parents' to keep an eye on their four-pawed friends. Its rotating camera allows for a 360° field of vision and has a special function that allows you to feed treats to your kittens while you are away. It also has auto-cat tracking, two-way audio, and colour-night vision.

| WWW.FURBO.COM

5 - FLUENT PET CLASSIC TESTER KIT

A set of programmable buttons that can be recorded with words such as 'Walk!', 'Play!', 'Hungry!', 'Potty!', and more. Your cat 'talks' to you by pressing the right buttons.

| WWW.FLUENT.PET

6 - SURE PETCARE SUREFEED MICROCHIP PET FEEDER

If you have more than one cat, this microchip-based feeder allows you to feed both wet and dry food to the 'right' cat. It's ideal when your older and younger cats have different dietary needs.

| WWW.SUREPETCARE.COM



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CASINOMARBELLA.COM/RESTAURANT



Meet the team behind Christie's International Real Estate's new office in Madrid, and those who are responsible for making The Agency one of Marbella's top new realtors. Find out about the change in the law on drink driving, coming into force of January 1, 2025

enterprise

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CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE IS ON THE MOVE

Not so long ago, we reported that Christie's International Real Estate Marbella was opening a new office – not further down the road in another suburban area, but in Málaga. Now comes the news that the team is expanding further with the opening of a brand-new office in Madrid.

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE, MADRID

The Christie's International Real Estate Madrid team





For an internationally renowned brand such as Christie's International Real Estate, operating from a highly visible prime location is of great importance, and so its Marbella offices are located on the Golden Mile, where the company continues a presence that goes back a decade now. It soon became evident that there was demand for a recognised brand such as Christie's International Real Estate in a market like that of Marbella. International buyers trust the name and the accompanying service and know-how, and the same is true of homeowners, as a result of which the team led by Hans Veenhuijsen can boast of having many of the finest properties in the region on its books.

The success of Christie's International Real Estate Marbella led to expansion into Málaga, when Hans opened a new office in the city centre in 2018 following strong demand from clients for access to quality properties and investments in and around the provincial capital. "We were already familiar with the local market," says Hans, "and we scouted top local people to join our team, and the same is true now that we've launched the Madrid office, whose team is headed up by Olga García Hernández, Managing Director of Christie's International Real Estate Madrid." Hans is now the CEO of all three offices, and one of his many business skills is picking strong teams, capable of excelling in dynamic markets such as those of the three M's where Christie's International Real Estate is now operative.

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE IN SPAIN

The entry into the vibrant Madrid market greatly expands Christie's International Real Estate presence in Spain, and the three markets have been strategically chosen to complement and support one another. In other words, a global city such as Madrid attracts the kind of buyers who also seek properties or investments along the Costa del Sol. "The three markets open up a highly complementary combination of property types and investment options."

From its offices on Nuñez de Balboa 12, in the exclusive Recoletos area of the Barrio Salamanca in Madrid, the Christie's International Real Estate team will be focusing not just on a fine collection of quality homes in and around the city, ›



Madrid has everything, from classical to modern

but also on a select offering of commercial real estate and related assets. The areas of speciality will include Salamanca, Chamberí, Justicia, Chamartín, the city centre, La Moraleja, Aravaca, Pozuelo and Puerta de Hierro. Sharing the office, by the way, will be the team of Christie's Spain, the renowned art auctioneers, which means that Madrid, like London and Brussels, features a unique model with Christie's auctions. These three locations are the only ones in the world that share their offices in the same place, through which they are creating a more dynamic and all-inclusive service for their cliental. Clients on both sides are able to leverage the unique synergies between the worlds of high-end real estate, art, and luxury items.

Both provide specialised services that include identifying high-value opportunities for high-net-worth clients that can vary from buildings and development projects to art and homes. The Madrid office has experts for every stage of the process, from sourcing to negotiation, processing, and final acquisition. "What makes Madrid so exciting for us is that it is both an important and stable business hub, and a city that offers an excellent quality of life," says Hans, who has led the 'expansion out of Marbella' from the outset.

"The growth potential here is strong and consistent, and together with the individual dynamics of markets such as Marbella and Málaga that makes for powerful prospects, especially in the higher end of the market." Christie's International Real Estate has made an impact in the Spanish market and is poised to achieve even more, building on a strong combination of local knowledge combined with an international brand with global access to buyers, investors, technical expertise, and of course luxurious homes around the world.

"As Christie's International Real Estate offices in Marbella, Málaga, and

Madrid, we are local and present on the ground, but also form part of that international network, and this is one of the formulas for success that have made us stand out." Newcomers to any of the above markets are drawn by a familiar name that has stood the test of time in terms of service and expertise, and as a result Christie's International Real Estate Marbella is well and truly on the move.

**CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL
ESTATE MADRID**
NUÑEZ DE BALBOA, 12
MADRID
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INFO@CIRE-MADRID.COM
WWW.CIRE-MADRID.COM

The modern exterior of the new Madrid office



Sophistication can also be exuberant in a capital city



Head of Sales Benjamin Beza and Managing Partner Leif Orthmann

THE AGENCY MARBELLA

WORDS MICHEL CRUZ PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE AGENCY

Those who have Netflix will know The Agency as the glamorous firm linking spectacular multimillion dollar Beverly Hills mansions with suitably high net worth buyers – while doing so with a certain Hollywood flair. Now Marbella has its very own version of The Agency, a boutique realtor that does things its own way, but with a direct link to real estate icon Mauricio Umansky himself.

If you watch the Netflix television series named after the real estate agency founded by Mauricio Umansky in 2011, you will know that he is regarded as one of the most influential realtors in the world today. In fact, Mexican-born Umansky not only wrote a book on success in business and life, he also practises what he preaches – holding the international record for the highest number of properties above \$30 million sold by any one person. The man who connects the rich and famous of not just Los Angeles and the USA but high flyers from around the world with the crème de la crème of homes and estates

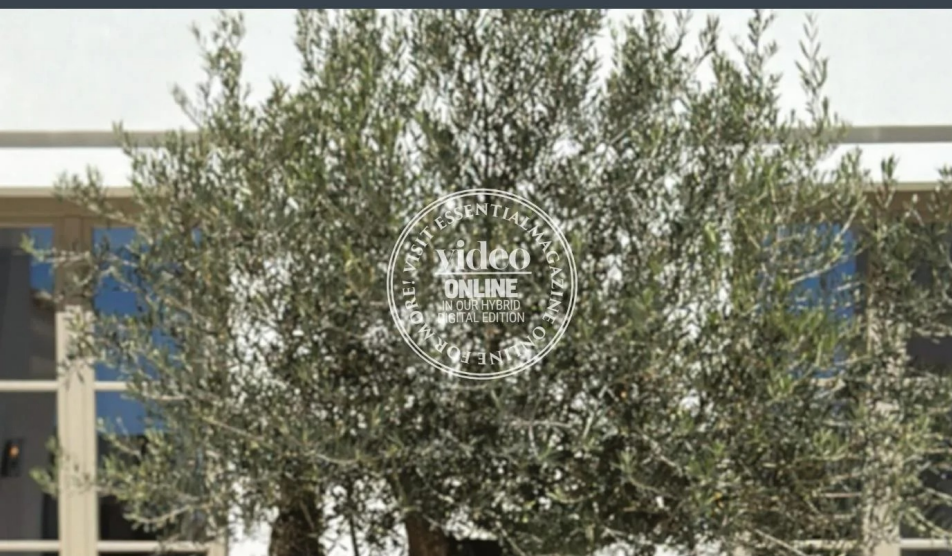
is regarded as a modern-day authority on the subject of success in the real estate business.

Umansky is known for his fearless business instincts and confident dealmaking skills, but of course there is more to a success story such as The Agency. Among the other ingredients are marketing – as in landing your own Netflix TV series – and attention to detail in everything from office styling and brochures to the teams selected and how they present themselves. Umansky has literally written the book on prospering in this field, and apart from the business credentials mentioned above, much of it also has to do with personal contacts built

up over many years of hard work and dedication. The Agency can list many of the A-list properties and find A-list buyers for them because Mauricio Umansky and the company as a whole have an international network that is worth its weight in gold.

THE AGENCY MARBELLA

“We are The Agency in Marbella and for this entire region,” says Managing Partner Leif Orthmann. “This means that we are an authentic part of the company so many people follow on Netflix, but we’re not a carbon copy; we do things our own way within our own unique market: Marbella.” In fact, The Agency has a presence



"WE ARE AN AUTHENTIC PART OF THE COMPANY SO MANY PEOPLE FOLLOW ON NETFLIX, BUT WE'RE NOT A CARBON COPY; WE DO THINGS OUR OWN WAY WITHIN OUR OWN UNIQUE MARKET: MARBELLA."

The team outside The Agency office

in cities and countries around the world, and one of its great strengths is the ability to adapt to each market while also maintaining that certain stardust, which radiates across from LA.

Leif blends a certain solid German corporate flair and organisational ability with the glint-in-the-eye of someone who really understands and appreciates Marbella and the region as a whole, and as such leads a boutique agency that mixes all these ingredients into a successful whole. "We don't desire rapid expansion. We prefer quality over quantity, and while we will help someone to

buy a €350.000 property, the overall nature of the company along with its global network means that we tend to attract homeowners and buyers at the higher end of the market." This is reflected in an average value of almost €3.5 million per sale, and the fact that The Agency is building a very loyal client base built upon personal relationships between owners, buyers, investors, and the team.

The sales team, for example, is headed up by Benjamin Beza, who brings local knowledge to a firm with uniquely impactful access to High Net Worth buyers and investors worldwide. "Our clients come

from across Europe and the world, but of course there is a natural link with the fast-growing North American market, as people there know and trust the brand and what it stands for," says Benjamin. Those of us who have stood in traffic near the El Corte Inglés department store will have noticed the cheekily clever marketing of The Agency Marbella, which brings that touch of LA smart to our shores, yet Leif is quick to point out that his is an agency with its own identity. In part, it builds on his own credentials in real estate, which include a master's degree in the field,

the first part of his career spent working in a family agency in Switzerland, and the successful niche development projects he has created in Marbella over the past years.

The other part reflects his corporate background and entrepreneurial skills as a commodities trader who built up a highly successful business in Borneo, Indonesia before selling the business and choosing Marbella as his preferred home. "I've come back to my original and ultimate calling, real estate," says Leif, who also renovates and builds one-off luxury homes in different

locations in and around Marbella. "I think what characterises The Agency in Marbella is our blend of solid corporate background matched with a cool, modern approach. For our clientele, it appears to be the right mix."

THE AGENCY MARBELLA

EDIFICIO CENTRO EXPO, BLVD.

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MARBELLA



business news

COMPILED BY **MARISA CUTILLAS**



McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Málaga Receives Best Business Initiative Award

McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Málaga was awarded the Best Business Initiative prize recently at the fourth edition of the Málaga Tourism Awards, organised by the Málaga City Council's Tourism Department. Held every two years, the event celebrates the efforts of companies and individuals that contribute to the growth of tourism in the city. "It's an immense honour for McArthurGlen Málaga to receive this award. Being recognised as the Best Business Initiative in support of tourism is a true privilege," said Javier Mendizábal, Centre Manager of McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Málaga.

WWW.MCARTHURGLEN.COM



Sophie Festival Announces Day One

The electronic music festival, Sophie Festival, will be commencing with Day One on January 1, 2025, at the Ogus Park in Churriana, Málaga, featuring well-known EDM artists like Luciano and Richie Hawtin. Participating DJs and producers are known for their ability to create immersive atmospheres. With its innovative design and capacity for a vast number of attendees, Ogus Park has become a reference point for large events in the south of Spain. Get your tickets at <https://www.enterticket.es/eventos/sophie-day-one-luciano-114067>.

There are many more events lined up so stay tuned to the website.

WWW.SOPHIE.ES



Mango Teen Opens in Larios Centro in Málaga

Mango is one of the most emblematic brands in the Spanish fashion industry and it has recently opened a brand-new store called Mango Teen on the top floor of Larios Centro in Málaga. The store features clothing for youths and teens (both casual and formal items). Combining classic and contemporary touches, its lines have a wide variety of garments ranging from clothing to footwear and accessories.

WWW.MANGO.COM





Boho Club Presents New Holistic Wellbeing Centre, Ashiana

Boho Club in Marbella recently launched its new holistic wellbeing centre, Ashiana, which combines technological innovation and ancestral practices. Ashiana, which means ‘safe refuge’ in Sanskrit, offers guests a place to connect with themselves and restore their vital energy. It offers numerous treatments, including Collagen Wave Skin Tightening and LPG Face and Body Endermologie. Ashiana also has special beds that combine specific frequencies, vibrations, and temperature and pressure changes to instil a sense of profound calm. On the gastronomic side, meanwhile, Boho Club will be open on January 1 for a special brunch prepared by Diego del Río.

WWW.BOHOCUB.COM

Gilmar Launches Balcón del Mediterráneo

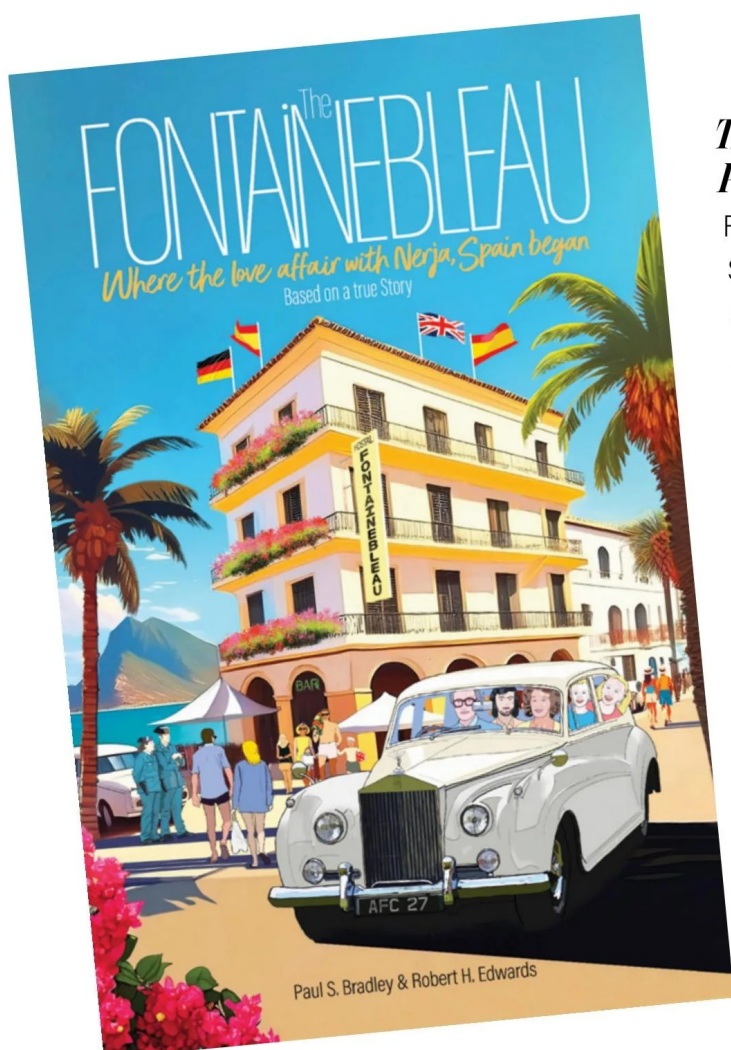
Real estate firm, Gilmar, recently held an Open House event to present its latest promotion: the brand-new Balcón del Mediterráneo – a development that combines luxury, design, and exclusivity, right on the New Golden Mile of Estepona. The event was attended by representatives from some of Marbella’s top agencies, as well as investors and clients. Attendees enjoyed cocktails, prizes, and a limousine ride to a hot air balloon, from which they enjoyed a panoramic view of the promotion and the Mediterranean Coast.

WWW.GILMAR.ES

New Openings at McArthur Glen

McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Málaga is pleased to announce that it has opened two new establishments at its shopping complex: PDPAOLA (a jewellery firm) and La Pecera (a trendy ice-cream shop offering iconic Japanese desserts called Taiyakis). The company also announced that it would be opening a Swarovski store, as well as two food-related businesses: Casa Gómez and Sabor a España.

| WWW.MCARTHURGLEN.COM



The Fontainebleau: New Book by Paul S. Bradley and Robert H. Edwards

Fontainebleau – Where the Love Affair with Nerja, Spain Began is a book by authors Paul S. Bradley and Robert H. Edwards. It invites you to take a nostalgic trip back to the 1970s and discover the amusing true story of a British family who headed to Spain in their Rolls-Royce and purchased a half-finished hostel. After numerous delays, the hostel opened in 1974 and was immediately at loggerheads with oddball ex-pats, eccentric guests, demanding tour operators, and the Guardia Civil. With family harmony falling apart and bankruptcy looming, the family's survival depended on luck and a gritty determination to succeed. Available in English on all Amazon platforms in paperback and Kindle versions, including Kindle Unlimited.



El Lodge and Maribel Now Open in the Sierra Nevada

The El Lodge and Maribel Hotels, managed by Luxury Hotel Partners (the group behind the renowned Marbella Club), have reopened for the winter season. El Lodge exudes a sophisticated and relaxed atmosphere, while Maribel buzzes with vibrant energy, positioning itself as the social hub of Sierra Nevada. Guests at both hotels can enjoy shared perks, including direct access to the slopes, a shared Kids Club, spa areas, outdoor pools, and the flexibility to check in at either hotel regardless of where their reservation is. Returning this season is the ice rink, located between the two hotels – a perfect spot for an afternoon of skating, followed by a cup of hot chocolate by the fireplace.

WWW.ELLODGE.COM

WWW.MARIBELS.COM

Dehesa Monteros Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Dehesa Monteros is a Málaga-born brand from the Serranía de Ronda that is dedicated to producing unique 100 per cent Ibérico products. Recently, the renowned company celebrated its 20th anniversary, inviting select members of the press to a lunch featuring a selection of its very best products. Located in the Genal and Guadiaro valleys, Dehesa Monteros distinguishes itself with a market-exclusive feature: its 100 per cent Iberian pigs feast on chestnuts one month before the traditional acorn-based 'montanera' feeding period. This process imparts a special sweetness, as well as a distinctive flavour and texture, to the final products.

| WWW.DEHESAMONTEROS.COM





Manolo Bakes Opens at the Centro Comercial Miramar in Fuengirola

Manolo Bakes, a coffee house with over 50 locations in Spain, has opened its first store in Málaga at the Miramar commercial centre in Fuengirola. Clients can enjoy the full Manolo Bakes experience, join its community, and explore its latest releases and special initiatives. The brand is dedicated to supporting emerging art, with collaborations where various artists create special designs for its boxes. Participating artists include Caravaca, Naranjalidad, Jorge Arévalo, and Pils Ferrer.

| WWW.MANOLOBAKES.COM

The Spanish Association Against Cancer Hosts Awards Ceremony

The Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (The Spanish Association Against Cancer) recently held the first edition of the Málaga Against Cancer Awards to recognise individuals or organisations for their collaboration with the Spanish Association Against Cancer and their contributions to patient well-being. Honourees included famous singer Luz Casal, oncologist Dr. Emilio Alba, Unicaja Baloncesto, and more. A Strategic Projects Grant of €150.000 over three years was also awarded to Dr. Isabel Barragán for her research on predicting responses to immunotherapy and radiotherapy in metastatic patients using blood biomarkers.

| WWW.CONTRAELCANCER.ES





Nao Victoria Docks in Málaga

The emblematic ship, Nao Victoria, is currently docked in Muelle 1 of the Málaga Port and it can be visited until January 12 from 10am to 6:30pm. The ship is a replica of the vessel that took part in the first voyage around the world, led by Magallanes, from 1519 to 1522. Entries cost €6 for adults, €3 for children, or €15 for families (comprising two adults and up to three children aged five to 10).

| WWW.FUNDACIONNAOVICTORIA.ORG



Hugo Investing Kicks Off 2025 with the Hugo DrinkEXchange: Cava Tasting

On Thursday, January 17, from 5pm to 7pm, Hugo Investing will be celebrating the start of the new year with the first Hugo DrinkEXchange of 2025, which will feature an exclusive Cava Tasting. Readers are warmly invited to join the team in raising a glass to a healthy and successful new year. As always, the team has added a playful element to the afternoon: a competition in which attendees can test their Cava knowledge and compete for the best bottle of the event. The team will also be sharing a sneak peek of what's ahead in 2025, including sessions on how to protect your portfolio against market fluctuations. Admission is free, but reservations are required.

| TO SIGN UP, SEND AN E-MAIL TO INFO@HUGOINVESTING.COM



Higuerón Resort Presents United Colours Exhibition

Higuerón Resort, a hotel-museum adorned with 400 works of contemporary art, recently hosted the United Colours exhibition, which was organised by Artishow. The event kicked off with an exclusive preview for the press and authorities and a cocktail reception. It featured works inspired by Spanish and Nordic influences, created by Pilar Correa, Angelica Wiik, Toni Coll, IdeasDpapel, Carlos Menéndez, Juan Francisco Gómez, Fernando Sáenz de Elorrieta, Martina Ehrenborg, Miguel Ramón Monegal, Stefan Wentzel, and Antonio Soler.

| WWW.HIGUERONRESORT.COM

New Diagnostics Area at the Vithas Xanit International Hospital in Benalmádena

The Vithas Xanit International Hospital in Benalmádena has inaugurated a new Diagnostic Imaging Area that is dedicated to ultrasounds, densitometry, and mammograms. The Hospital has also acquired a state-of-the-art mammogram system (the Selenia Dimensions 6000 3D), which significantly reduces radiation exposure for patients. According to José Antonio Ródenas, Managing Director of Vithas Xanit International Hospital, "The goal of this new area is to provide our patients with a faster and more precise diagnostic service in a setting designed for their comfort and well-being."

| WWW.VITHAS.ES





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Smöoy Focuses on Andalucía for its Expansion Strategy

Smöoy, a leading franchise in the production and sale of frozen yoghurt, has identified Andalucía as a strategic region for its 2025 expansion. The yoghurt chain, known for its low-fat, fibre-rich, gluten-free products, aims to meet existing demand in the Andalusian market. The company plans to increase its presence in cities such as Sevilla, Málaga, Cádiz, Granada, and Córdoba. There are four different franchise formats to choose from, and the company has agreements with financial entities that can offer advantageous financing conditions.

| WWW.SMÖOY.COM



Costa Press Club Celebrates Christmas

The Costa Press Club, comprising members of the international media on the Costa del Sol, opted to return to La Cala de Mijas this year to celebrate Christmas at El Olivo restaurant. Turkey with all the trimmings was one of several excellent options on the menu, and there was also a Secret Santa draw and a seasonal media-related quiz, which was won by Joan Fallon and Jennie Rhodes. Rather than drive home after the party, several members opted to stay at the nearby Gran Hotel Costa del Sol. Neil Hesketh, the club President, announced that the next meeting will be the AGM, to be held at a venue in Fuengirola on Monday, January 20, 2025.

| WWW.COSTAPRESSCLUB.COM

XRF Presents 5G+ TACTILE with Telefónica España, UMA, and Alisys

Spanish startup, XRF, a pioneering technology company specialising in mixed reality and artificial intelligence (AI) for decision-making in complex scenarios, recently showcased a demonstration of the 5G+ TACTILE project in Málaga. The initiative, developed in collaboration with ITIS UMA, Telefónica, and Alisys, was coordinated by the University of Málaga (UMA) as part of the UNICO R&D Advanced 5G and 6G programme. At the event, attendees observed how the integration of robotics, 5G connectivity, extended reality, and AI-based solutions effectively support command and control centres, optimising rescue operations and saving lives.

| WWW.XRF.AI





Quirónsalud Málaga Hospital Celebrates 15-Year Anniversary

It's been 15 years since the Quirónsalud Málaga Hospital first opened its doors in November 2009, laying the foundations for its establishment as a benchmark in quality medical care. With nearly 400,000 annual consultations, 14,000 admissions, 20,000 surgeries, 1,400 births, 200,000 radiological studies, and 130,000 emergencies carried out, the Hospital offers a comprehensive portfolio of services focused on integrated and multidisciplinary care that blends excellent health care with comfort for patients and their families. More than 1,000 individuals, including over 200 doctors, make up the caring team at Hospital Quirónsalud Málaga. Congratulations on 15 years of dedication and hard work!

WWW QUIRON SALUD.COM

Dekra Knowledge Centre Opens in Málaga

Dekra, a company dedicated to testing, inspecting, and certifying vehicles, has just opened the Dekra Knowledge Centre in Málaga. Located in the Andalucía Technology Park, its mission is to promote training and development and attract top professionals from the automotive, industrial, and technological sectors. Dekra also hopes to establish Málaga as a strategic hub for innovation and technology.

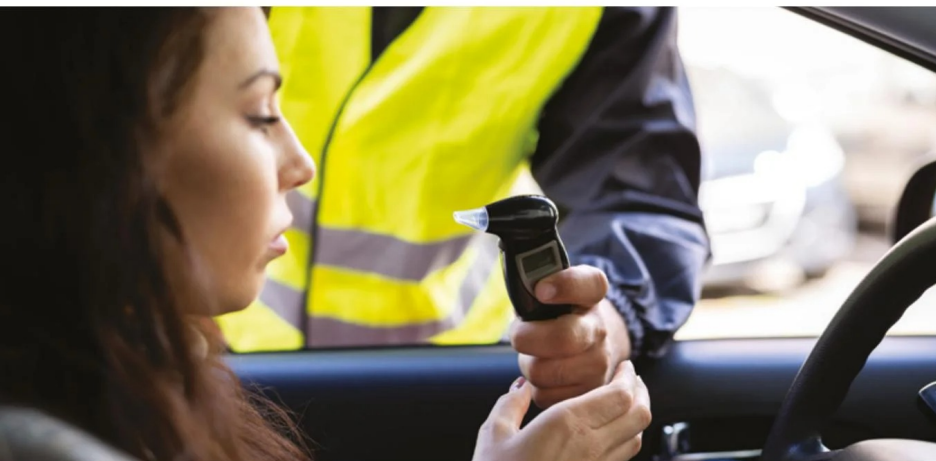
| WWW.DEKRA.ES



NEW CHANGES TO DRINK-DRIVING IN SPAIN

Alcohol is behind 30 to 50% of road-related deaths in Spain. Out of the 862 fatal casualties from last year, over 53% tested positive for alcohol and drugs.

WORDS **RAYMUNDO LARRAIN NESBITT**



With this in mind, the Spanish government pulled up its socks and looked at Sweden and Norway, two of the countries in Europe with the best road safety track records. It decided to mirror its alcohol consumption policy and plans to drastically reduce the limit.

As of January 1st 2025, new limits to driving under the influence will come into force in

Spain.

The maximum allowed will now be 0.2 grams of alcohol per litre of blood which equates to 0.1 milligrams of alcohol per litre of air exhaled. This change more than halves the existing alcohol driving limit (0.5 g/l). Professional drivers will have even stricter limits.

To put the new limit into perspective, a man weighing between 70 to 90 kilos would test positive on drinking only one-third of a litre of beer (330ml), or a 100ml glass of

wine or Champagne. In plain English, if you drink, however small the amount, you will test positive as of January.

A 0.2 g/l limit effectively means drivers should not risk drinking at all before driving.

NEW YEAR

This is of particular importance with New Year's festivities around the corner. Many people are oblivious to this legal change and will be celebrating heavily all night out (Putin's ICBMs allowing).

The Guardia Civil loves to organise random controls at roundabouts on New Year's Eve and will catch revellers unaware. Make sure you tell your friends and acquaintances about the new limit.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET CAUGHT DRINK-DRIVING?

It leads to a sharp loss of driving points (between 4 to 6 points out of 12). You are also fined

between €500 and €1.000. In severe cases, driving under the effects of alcohol is a pursuable criminal offence for which you may be charged, leading to jail terms (more on this below). Arts 379 et seq of Spain's Criminal Code rule on this.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I REFUSE TO TAKE A BREATHALYSER TEST?

Ah yes, the rebel.

As mentioned, the Guardia Civil has a penchant for random breathalyser controls at roundabouts. Suddenly, you will pull out of the highway and find yourself in a tailback caused by nervous drivers taking the test. The test not only applies to alcohol but also to any kind of drugs.

Refusing to take a test by a police officer is a pursuable offence ruled in Art 383 of the Spanish Criminal Code. It has associated jail terms of six months to one year and the suspension of your driving licence between one to four years, depending upon the gravity (alcohol consumption level, previous convictions, etc).

THE #ZEROHERO INITIATIVE

Alas, not all is doom and gloom for designated drivers.

For many years, all along the Costa del Sol, the commendable #zerohero program has been in action. At selected venues dotting the coastline, designated drivers get free soft drinks at participating bars and restaurants. This fosters people not to drink and drive. I have no idea who is behind it, but my hat is off to them.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, as of 2025, you should not drink and drive, period.

If you plan to drink, it is strongly recommended you share a car and designate a driver who does not drink or call a taxi or UBER.

Gone are the days when you could hit one for the road. Going forward, drinking and driving may lead you to jail. If you are on a visa in Spain, driving drunk may jeopardise your visa renewal (as you need a clean criminal record – no trace).

This change in the law will save lives, and that's always a good thing. Make the right choice, do not drink and drive.

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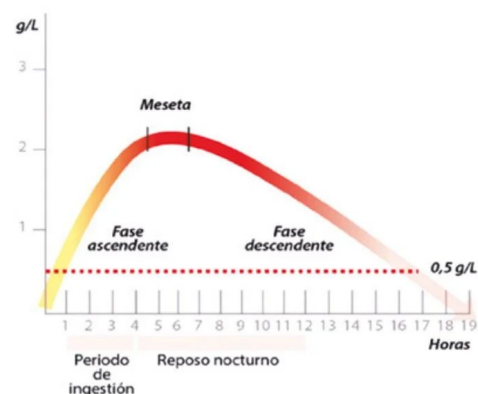
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HOW LONG DOES ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION LAST?

After the consumption of alcohol, its maximum effects are reached between 5 to 7 hours later. After 7 hours of intake, its effects gradually diminish to the point they are negligible after 18 hours (falling below the new 0.2 g/l limit). In other words, the moment you drink alcohol, its effects will last over the next 18 hours during which time you will test positive. The graph below (known as the Widmark Curve) does a better job explaining it.

CURVA DE LA ALCOHOLEMIA (O CURVA DE WIDMARK)



Source: DGT

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

A FESTIVE CONVERSATION WITH **KASPAR HUIJSMAN**,
CEO OF HUGO INVESTING, THE ONLY REGULATED
STOCKBROKER IN ANDALUSIA

As the year draws to a close, many investors reflect on their financial journeys, assess their returns, and set resolutions for the coming year. It's a time of celebration as well as introspection. Who better to provide insights than Kaspar Huijsman, the founder and CEO of Hugo Investing? In this interview, Kaspar shares updates, reflections, and a glimpse into what 2025 might hold for investors.



KASPAR, IT'S GREAT TO CATCH UP. WHAT'S NEW AT HUGO INVESTING?

Thank you! Things are going well at Hugo. We've seen continued market fluctuations, particularly after recent shifts in U.S. economic policy. Watching how the U.S. navigates its economic challenges, creating opportunities and risks across various sectors, is fascinating. We closely monitor Europe's financial and geopolitical difficulties, particularly in Germany and France. For a more in-depth analysis of these nations' significant issues, we have produced a comprehensive and informative video available on our YouTube

channel at youtube.com/HugoInvesting.

It's a dynamic time, and we actively track the situation to help our clients adjust their strategies accordingly.

SECURITY IS A BIG CONCERN FOR MANY PEOPLE. HOW DOES HUGO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CLIENTS' FUNDS?

Our client accounts are held with Saxo Bank, a Danish bank regulated by the Financial Supervisory Authority. Saxo Bank has an A- investment grade rating from S&P Global Ratings in April 2024, ensuring our clients' highest level of security.



I KNOW YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT IMPROVING FINANCIAL LITERACY. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THE ACADEMY FOR INVESTORS?

Absolutely! I founded the Academy for Investors because I believe financial education is crucial. We learn about everything in school, from Greek mythology to physics, but rarely about managing money. That's why we've combined our 60 years of experience to develop online and offline courses to help people confidently navigate investing.

We've partnered with a Dutch university to offer courses, and soon, our Short Master in Investing will be accredited – something we are incredibly proud of. Our focus

on education and community-building sets us apart. We regularly host seminars and events, mainly in Marbella, at our office, where clients can learn and network. Many of our clients tell us they feel like part of a community, not just a financial service. I invite everyone to our New Year's cocktail event at Hugo's on January 17th to celebrate the New Year. It will be an excellent opportunity to toast success in the stock market and, most importantly, good health.

To sign up, people can visit our website or **email info@hugoinvesting.com** **THOSE GATHERINGS HAVE BEEN SUCH A GREAT INITIATIVE. WHY DO YOU THINK THEY'VE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL?**

These events help build a community of informed investors. Sharing knowledge empowers participants to make better investment decisions. The more our clients understand the market, the better they can manage risks.

SPEAKING OF INVESTING, HOW DO YOU GUIDE CLIENTS ON DIVERSIFICATION? WHAT'S THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION YOU ENCOUNTER?

Diversification is key! Real estate is a solid investment, but a mix of assets, including stocks, offers greater flexibility. Stocks can be sold quickly when needed. Many of our clients have real estate and investment portfolios, providing them with a balanced approach to achieving their financial goals. ›



A common misconception is that investing is only for the wealthy or requires a large sum. The best time to start investing was ten years ago; the second-best time is today. Anyone can invest – it's all about managing risk and developing a strategy. At Hugo, we focus on helping our clients define a plan, stick to it, manage risks, and use various financial instruments suited to their portfolios.

FINALLY, YOU WERE NOMINATED FOR DUTCH ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR IN SPAIN. WHAT DOES THIS RECOGNITION MEAN TO YOU?

It's an honour! This nomination recognises my efforts and the incredible work of the entire Hugo team. We strive to deliver exceptional service, and this acknowledgement shows we are on the right track.

As the year ends, and the new year starts, we'd love to invite anyone interested in investing or learning more to visit our office on the Golden Mile for a coffee, a festive Christmas snack, and a chat. It's the perfect time to reflect on the year and discuss goals for 2025.

Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

KASPAR HUIJSMAN IS A PASSIONATE SELF-INVESTOR DEDICATED TO THOROUGH RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS. HE IS AN AVID READER AND LISTENER, NEVER SETTLING FOR PARTIAL TRUTHS. HE HAS OVER 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR. "AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST" KASPAR HUIJSMAN FOUNDER OF HUGOINVESTING.COM FOUNDER OF ACADEMY-FOR-INVESTORS.COM

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JAVIER GUERRERO **ESTUDIO COCINO**

Clients, friends, and associates gathered to celebrate the launch of the Javier Guerrero Estudio Cocino, admiring the innovation, style, and exclusivity in the design of the impressive kitchen units on display. The new showroom is the exclusive distributor of Snaidero by Pininfarino, the iconic Italian brand internationally recognised for its excellence in kitchen design and manufacturing.

WWW.JAVIERGUERRERO.NET



PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**



**VOGT LAW 25TH
ANNIVERSARY
COCKTAIL PARTY**

A large collection of well-wishers came to join the 25th Anniversary celebrations for top Swedish law practise VOGT Law at FORUM Marbella. Over the last quarter century, the firm which was founded by Einar Askvig and is now headed up by Christine Sollie and José Luis Rojas, has become one of the most established in Marbella, particularly for legal matters concerning property, investment, inheritance, and taxes.



WWW.VOGLAW.COM



PHOTOGRAPHY **KEVIN HORN**



COLLECTIVE CALLING **CHRISTMAS GALA**

Collective Calling hosted a memorable charity gala at the sumptuous Anantara Villa Padierna Palace Hotel. With main sponsor Drumelia Real Estate, together with Marbella Living, Bright Marbella and the Archy Club Madrid, the 160 guests attending enjoyed an evening of elegance and compassion, raising over €7.500 for supporting street children in Tanzania and the homeless in Spain.

WWW.COLLECTIVECALLING.COM



PHOTOGRAPHY **NICOLE UPTON & VITALII VERKHOTUROV**





Benahavís is a super scenic village ensconced in nature only a few kilometres inland from Guadalmina. It has always been revered as a culinary hotspot – join us on a tour of some of the best it has to offer. Learn about the current challenges being faced by the wine industry.

gourmet

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BENAHAVÍS GASTRO TOUR

WORDS **JAMES SINCLAIR** PHOTOGRAPHY **TOTTEN**



Hotel Amanhavis

Benahavís is a charming white mountain village a few kilometres inland from Guadalmina which is also revered as a culinary paradise. It features numerous restaurants comprising a full variety of quality cuisine as well as quaint bars and wineries. Many of these are located on its picturesque Main Street, or in one of the small side streets or plazas. A short drive from the Coast, it is a highly recommended visit, combining strolling through the village with lunch in one of its enticing establishments.

The Mayor of Benahavís, José Antonio Mena, together with the President of the Mancomunidad de Municipios, Manuel Cardeña, and the Councillor for Tourism, Scott Marshall, in conjunction with the Escuela de Hostelería of Benahavís, recently invited members of the local press on a gastronomic tour of the village. According to the Mayor: "The gastronomic wealth of Benahavís offers visitors a multitude of options, all of which are based on seasonal and local products, created by the talent and passion of our restaurateurs."

AMANHAVIS

Among the most recognised establishments is Amanhavis, located in the stunning boutique hotel of the same name, which specialises in serving market-fresh cuisine. Every day the chef tours the local markets to find the freshest ingredients of the season and thus creates a different daily menu, where diners can choose between

six appetisers, eight main courses, and four desserts. The ambience of Amanhavis is like a cosy living room, where one can feel at home, enjoying a truly wonderful cuisine and evening.

CALLE PILAR 3, BENAHAIVÍS. TEL: (+34) 952 856 026 WWW.AMANHAVIS.COM

Amanhavis Restaurante – Oven-baked
fillets of sea bass, basil sauce



Bodegón Gallery – Picanha



AMIGOS RESTAURANTE

Amigos Restaurant is an enticing eatery with one of the best terraces in the centre of Benahavís. It specialises in international food, with French, Japanese, and Argentinian influences. The wood-fired grill occupies a prime position and the selection of meats is impressive. T-bone steak, lamb, duck breast with foie gras, suckling pig, Iberian pork, and sirloin stroganoff feature among its favoured dishes. The menu also includes seafood plates and homemade desserts. Amigos has a beautiful winery for celebrations and private events in combination with an impressive selection of wines.

CALLE MÁLAGA 3, BENAHAIVÍS. TEL: (+34) 952 855 175
AMIGOS@BENAHAVIS.NET



La Escalera
de Balthazar
– Tuna tartare



BODEGÓN GALLERY RESTAURANT & TIENDA DE VINOS

Bodegón Gallery offers traditional Mediterranean cuisine which combines top quality products with innovative preparation. It is also a wine store, where you can select from a range of wines, Champagnes, cavas and sparkling wines, as well as beautiful extra virgen olive oils and jams from its delicatessen. Customers can become members of its wine club, participating in arranged tastings and paired dinners.

AVENIDA ANDALUCÍA 5, BENAHA VÍS. TEL:
(+34) 690 714 927 BODEGONGALLERY@
GMAIL.COM

BODEGUITA EL CHICO

With a rustic and cosy atmosphere, La Bodeguita El Chico transports you to those old bars, where you meet with friends or family to have a good time trying various tapas, accompanied by a glass of wine, a cold beer, or its famous gin and tonic. Its outdoor terrace is the place to be to savour Spanish cuisine with a modern touch, with essential dishes such as grilled sirloin and Galician-style octopus.

CALLE MÁLAGA 6, BENAHA VÍS. TEL: (+34)
610 719 533

Bodeguita El Chico – Owner, Francisco Mena





Legends

EL GUARDA 1926

A restaurant and tapas bar with a family atmosphere specialising in meat and fish. El Guarda 1926 is located in one of the nicest areas of Benahavís on the Plaza de España, and has an extensive interior salon as well as a large and pleasant terrace.

PLAZA DE ESPAÑA 5, BENAHA VÍS. TEL: 952 642 055.



Legends – Beer tanks

ESCUELA DE HOSTELERÍA DE BENAHA VÍS

La Escuela de Hostelería in Benahavís has a restaurant that opens for lunch from Tuesday to Friday, prepared and served by students of the school. Savour a tasting menu with a cold appetiser, hot appetiser, starter, main course, and dessert, with pairing options, wines a la carte, or by the glass.

AVENIDA DE ANDALUCÍA 23, BENAHA VÍS.
TEL: (+34) 952 855 242
WWW.ESCUELAHOSTELERIA.ES

INDIAN SPICE BENAHA VÍS

Indian Spice presents quality Indian cuisine with a very attentive service. The restaurant offers a wide range of succulent, traditional Indian dishes, plus healthy options with organic spices, and a gluten-free menu with many vegetarian and vegan options. The establishment has a cosy indoor lounge and an outdoor terrace.

PLAZA DEL CASTILLO 1, BENAHA VÍS.
TEL: (+34) 952 605 513
WWW.INDIANSPICEBENAHA VÍS.ES



Benalvís at night

Legends – Chicken tacos



La Escalera de Balthazar – Fine de Claire oysters N2



LA ESCALERA DE BALTHAZAR

La Escalera de Balthazar offers a menu that combines Mediterranean and Provençal cuisine, focused on fresh and local ingredients. The dishes feature products from the land and sea, offering a fresh and modern interpretation of traditional Mediterranean recipes. The specialities on the menu include slow-cooked lamb shoulder with candied lemon and thyme, smoked tuna carpaccio from Tarifa, Galician mussels gratin with saffron, grilled acorn-fed secreto de bellota with Balthazar patatas bravas, and the red fruit pavlova.

CALLE DEL ALMENDRO 4, BENAHAVÍS.

TEL: (+34) 603 683 909

WWW.LAESCALERADEBALTHAZAR.COM

LA TABERNA FANTÁSTICA

La Taberna Fantástica stands out as an atypical Mediterranean cuisine restaurant where the offer is renewed daily. On the menu we can find excellent dishes of seasonal vegetables, Mediterranean rice, aged meats, and fish from the market. It is located in a beautiful stately home, 100 years old, which is tastefully decorated. The establishment has different rooms surrounding a charming central patio.

PLAZA DE ESPAÑA 1, BENAHAVÍS

TEL: (+34) 952 025 383

WWW.LATABERNAFANTASTICA.ES



La Terraza de Benahavís – Brie cheese salad

Bodeguita El Chico – Quail egg with ham tapa



La Escalera de Balthazar restaurant
 Restaurante Rufino – Artichokes with ham
 La Escalera de Balthazar – Lamb braised shoulder
 La Escalera de Balthazar – Lemon crumble

Cyrille Troesch, Executive Chef La Escalera de Balthazar





LA TERRAZA DE BENAHAVÍS

La Terraza de Benahavís is a restaurant where you can pass a nice time with family or friends. Located in one of the best areas of Benahavís, it offers a very pleasant ambience and top service. Here, you can enjoy various cocktails and a very complete and quality menu to suit all tastes.

CALLE MÁLAGA 15, BENAHAVÍS. TEL: (+34) 645 091 561

LAS CAÑAS VIEJAS

The Las Cañas Viejas restaurant/bar has a terrace with a privileged location, next to the towns main square. It serves breakfast, tapas, and lunch and, in summer, also dinner.

PLAZA DE ESPAÑA 7, BENAHAVÍS. TEL: (+34) 952 855 481

Bodegón Gallery – Octopus carpaccio





La Escalera de Balthazar
– Lamb braised shoulder
with potatoes

Bodegón Gallery



Las Cañas Viejas

Bodegón Gallery
– Tasting of extra
virgin olive oil



LEGENDS BAR & RESTAURANT

Legends is the only bar/restaurant in Benahavís that has large screens showing live sports. It also has a large cellar and includes tanks of Estrella de Galicia beer, Guinness on tap, and Peroni. Savour dishes from an international menu, like BBQ spare ribs, burgers, and nachos melt, or reserve for the legendary Sunday roast.

AVENIDA DE ANDALUCÍA 7, BENAHAUVÍS.

TEL: (+34) 952 856 263

LEGENDSBARGRILL@HOTMAIL.COM

RESTAURANTE RUFINO

Restaurante Rufino has specialised in meat and fish preparations since 1985. All products are high quality and it also features an extensive menu, with suggested dishes, as well as a full panoply of house wines.

CALLE MONTEMAYOR 26, BENAHAUVÍS.

TEL: (+34) 952 855 262.

RESTAURANTE SABOR

Restaurante Sabor is a traditional tapas restaurant that stands out for its prime location, excellent service, and cosy atmosphere. This is a paradise for those who appreciate the finer things in life: exceptional wines, exquisite gin and tonics, and delicious food. With character in abundance, each visit to Sabor is memorable and you will surely want to return.

PLAZA DE LA IGLESIA 4, BENAHAUVÍS.

TEL: (+34) 951 549 738

Restaurante Sabor – Junior,
Restaurant Manager



Restaurante Sabor



Bodegón Gallery

As well as being a centre for culinary excellence, the three rivers in its vicinity – the Guadalmina, Guadaiza, and Guadalmanza – make Benahavis a veritable haven for those who enjoy to be at one with nature.

Many thanks to Pilar Candil and Ángel Pardo of Lima Comunicación for efficiently organising such a delightful day out.

| WWW.BENAHAVIS.ES



Bodegón Gallery – Pranws filo



MARÍA JOSÉ , MARTÍNEZ OF LIENZO

LETTING CREATIVITY,
SUSTAINABILITY, AND
SOLIDARITY LEAD THE WAY



WORDS **MARISA CUTILLAS** PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **LIENZO**

The recent DANA storm in Valencia, which wreaked havoc and took hundreds of lives and countless homes, is one of Spain's greatest tragedies in recent decades. It was and continues to be a testimony to the need for better preparation and care of citizens, many of whom are still rebuilding their homes and coming to terms with the emotional and mental impact of the event. The natural disaster also revealed the unity

of the Valencian people, who gathered in the streets to clean up homes, help those in need, and advocate for a better and safer future. Among those who showed their commitment to the community is Chef María José Martínez, the Chef of the Michelin-starred restaurant, Lienzo.

She certainly wasn't alone. Many professionals from her sector stepped up to the plate, preparing meals to ensure that the Valencianos had a warm meal in their stomachs as they worked incessantly,

clearing the streets of mud and gathering their belongings from damaged homes. Lienzo was active from day one, taking part in fundraising efforts and cooking for citizens. Martínez recently shared her experience with the newspaper *Las Provincias*, saying, "During the first days, we cooked stews and desserts. It was tremendously rewarding to see how people came together with food donations, which we turned into hot meals for the victims."›



Catering, Martínez prepared two sustainable Mediterranean dishes. She was joined by the teams of talented chefs such as Jordi Roca (Rocambolesc), Benito Gómez (Restaurante Bardal), and Juanlu Fernández (LÚ Cocina y Alma). Martínez stated that she wanted “to be present at this important event, with its international projection and visibility and to continue supporting everyone in need until they can recover,” adding, “It’s essential to heal emotionally while revitalising the economy and strengthening businesses across the Valencian community.” From late November to December 1, Martínez also took part in the València Cuina Oberta event, which raised funds to affect victims of the flooding. She additionally participated in the fundraising gala, Desde Valencia para Valencia, created by Quique Dacosta, Ricard Camarena, and Begoña Rodrigo. ›



Later, in mid-November, Martínez took part in the Gran Premio Solidario Motul de Barcelona de MotoGPTM, which was held at the Circuit de Barcelona. At the event’s MotoGP VIP Village area, managed by Vilaplana



María José Martínez was born in Alhama de Murcia, where she developed a profound understanding of the crucial role that bees play in pollination and the survival of the planet. She worked closely alongside her father caring for beehives. Today, she is a staunch advocate for the protection and conservation of bees, and she frequently incorporates honey, beeswax, and other bee-derived products into her culinary creations. She actively supports the urban beekeeping project by the Valencia City Council and is often seen climbing ladders over five meters high to rescue beehives!

Sustainability is the cornerstone of her philosophy. She sources produce from local producers who respect the environment and animal welfare. At Lienzo, diners can enjoy one of three menus: Trazos (a menu of the day), Pinceladas (a 10-dish tasting menu), and Lienzo (featuring 14 dishes). The cuisine can be defined as 'modern Mediterranean' and its menu features over 16 ecological products that have been certified by the Committee of Ecological Agriculture of the Valencian Community.

Lienzo earned its first Repsol Sun and first Michelin Star in 2021 – two recognitions which it holds to this day. The *Sustainable Guide*, which prizes eco-friendliness in the culinary sector, has marked it as one of the most sustainable restaurants in the Community of Valencia. It is also the only Michelin-starred restaurant in

Valencia to have earned the highest Molt de Gust certification for its dedication to promoting high-quality and organic agri-food products from the Valencian Community.

The Chef was honoured with the Sustainability Award at Aqunaria Madrid Fusión 2024 for contributing to the study and protection of bees and for promoting organic products from Valencia. Her excellent work has also been recognised in the international *We're Smart Green Guide*. She testifies the excellent that arises when quality meets commitment.

| WWW.RESTAURANTELIENZO.COM





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www.kesotogrande.com



[/kesotogrande](https://www.instagram.com/kesotogrande)

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TOUGH TIMES FOR THE WINE INDUSTRY

WORDS **ANDREW J LINN**

Of all the family businesses that epitomise agriculture in France, winemaking

is the most symbolic. Sons, and increasingly daughters, follow their parents' footsteps without question. After university and/or agricultural college it is straight into the family business. Or was.

Robert Lefèvre's father made wine in the Médoc all his life in the same way as his father before him. A modest set-up, producing 160,000 bottles a year of very good red wine selling at six euros retail. Two years in the last 12 harvests

were wiped out by frost and hailstorms, and when a winery cannot make wine and has to survive a year with a very reduced income, the need for belt-tightening is a given.

This year the French government is paying between six and eight thousand euros to farmers for uprooting their vines – just at a time when Robert Jr reckons his family's product is the best ever. Consumer demand is at its lowest ebb for decades, and the outlook for winemakers is at its bleakest since the mid 1950s.

Over the last century, the wine industry has experienced several notable shortages and gluts influenced by economic,

climatic, and social factors. Wine traders of a certain age will remember bitterly the post-WW1 period, roughly the 1940s to 1950s, when the effect of vineyard workers having been sent to the trenches brought about a manpower shortage that reduced production. Although many vines had been destroyed due to the fighting, an inability to recruit enough willing hands led to grapes rotting on the surviving vines. But by the end of the 1950s, things were nearly back to normal. So much so in fact that by the 1970s there was talk of the Common Market's 'wine lake', along with 'butter mountains', etc. But it was not



only Europe that was affected. California's wineries were guilty of wild misjudgments for future sales and the hillsides of Napa had become over-populated with vines, causing the 1990s California Glut. The most recent incident affecting production and consumption was the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic. While some regions experienced oversupply due to restaurant closures, others saw shortages of wines due to supply chain disruptions and increased home consumption.

This year, Spain's northeast regions suffered the same fate as neighbouring France, with frost damage at the worst possible time in the weeks leading up to the harvest. The traditional solution of lighting fires nightly in the vineyards is horribly expensive and is never

a guarantee of the grapes' survival.

The bad news is that global wine production is set to drop to one of its lowest levels in more than six decades, with 2024 volumes forecast as 13% below the ten-year average. The European Union, which typically accounts for more than half of global wine production, is 11% down for the last five years, making it the lowest production figure of the 21st century.

Owing to continuous rain, disease outbreaks, and hailstorms, regions like Bordeaux and the Rhône Valley face particular difficulties. But there are winners as well: Italy reclaimed its position as the world's largest wine producer with an increase of 7% from 2023, Spain also saw a modest recovery, with an 18% increase

from the previous year.

Eastern European countries such as Portugal, Hungary and Slovakia also bucked the trend, recording above-average harvests. 2024 marks the lowest output in two decades with 12% below the five-year average. South Africa and New Zealand faced significant climatic challenges, from frost to excessive rainfall and flooding, and Argentina led the south American region with a notable recovery, yet still below its five-year average.

Conversely, Chile and Brazil saw sharp declines, with production falling due to drought and heavy rainfall. Australia's output reflected a slight increase but remained significantly below historical averages. ›



ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

No article on the trials and tribulations of the wine industry would be complete without a mention of climate change, something that is increasingly causing a need for resilience and adaptation. Victoria Henson, director of the UK's Champagne Bureau, highlighted the importance of research and development, such as experimenting with new grape varieties.

The sheer versatility of the vine means that there will always be locations where there are good vintages to balance the bad ones. Georgia continues to defy global trends with strong investment in production and

marketing, while Hungary reported its best harvest since 2010. South Africa, though hit by floods and disease, reported good stocks and a promising 2025. Swedish wines for the first time began to arouse interest, particularly the whites.

But there is still a crisis on another front. Young people are turning to other drinks, and in some categories the only increase in wine sales has been of the tinned variety. Once rejected as unworthy of the noble grape, this method of packaging has been suggested as one of the key ways of getting the under-25s into the habit. Indeed, cleaning out a virus from a computer is easier for most of them than

deciphering the typical wine label.

So, we have a situation whereby there is the possibility of less wine and less wine drinkers. And that is without considering climate change. Maybe the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) was right when it forecast that global wine production in 2024 will hit a 60-year low, driven by extreme weather events like droughts, frosts, and heavy rains. This trend points to the vulnerability of the wine industry in the face of changing climate patterns, especially in regions like Europe, which account for the majority of global wine output.

Other studies suggest that rising global temperatures could make up to 70% of current wine-growing regions unsuitable by the end of the century if global warming surpasses 2°C, a stark warning for wine-producing countries. This evolving crisis could fundamentally reshape the global wine map. **e**



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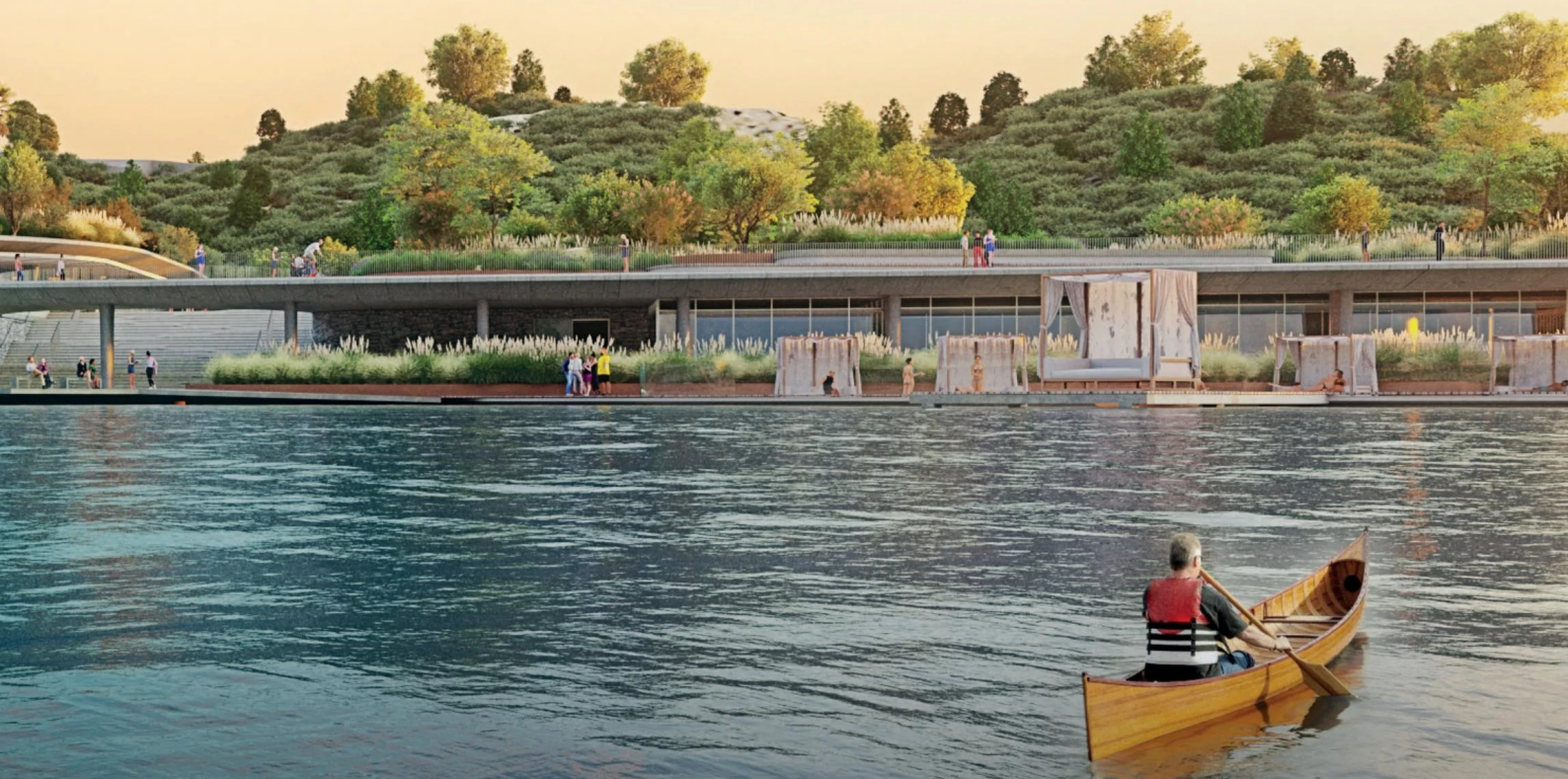
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Sincere thanks to our clients,
colleagues and friends for
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We look forward to
continued success in 2025.



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